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# STARS AND STRIPES®

Volume 78, No. 127A ©SS 2019 CONTINGENCY EDITION SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2019 stripes.com Free to Deployed Areas

## US to send 2K troops to Middle East to deter Iran

By COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon will send about 2,000 troops to Saudi Arabia as part of its efforts to deter Iranian aggression in the wake of several attacks attributed to the regime or its proxy forces in recent months, the Defense Department announced Friday.

The new deployment largely consists

of fighter jets and air defense capabilities and follows the deployment of other troops last month to bolster Saudi defenses after September attacks that devastated two key Saudi oil facilities. Defense Secretary Mark Esper on Friday called out Iran for those Sept. 14 drone and cruise missile strikes, claiming evidence at the site proves Tehran was to blame.

"It is clear that the Iranians are respon-

sible for the recent attacks on Saudi Arabian oil facilities," the defense chief told reporters Friday at the Pentagon. "Our international partners agree, including the United Kingdom, France and Germany, who have said so publicly."

Esper urged those and other "like-minded" nations to provide additional defensive capabilities to the Middle East to deter Iranian aggression. He issued a stern warning

to the Iranian regime, which has repeatedly denied involvement in the attacks on oil facilities and tankers in the region.

"Do not strike another sovereign state, do not threaten American interests, American forces, or we will respond," Esper said, directed at Iran. "Do not mistake our restraint for weakness. If you [do], you will regret that."

SEE TROOPS ON PAGE 2

## SYRIA

### Turkish forces advance, with deaths rising

By MEHMET GUZEL  
*Associated Press*

AKCAKALE, Turkey — Turkish forces pushed deeper into northeastern Syria on Friday, the third day of Ankara's offensive against U.S.-allied Syrian Kurdish fighters, as casualties mounted, international criticism of the campaign intensified and thousands of civilians fled the violence.

Turkey said it captured more Kurdish-held villages in the border region, while a camp for displaced residents about 7 miles from the frontier was evacuated after artillery shells landed nearby amid intense clashes. Aid agencies have warned of a humanitarian crisis, with nearly a half-million people at risk near the border.

U.S. President Donald Trump cleared the way for Turkey's air and ground assault after he pulled American troops from their positions near the border, drawing swift bipartisan criticism that he was endangering regional stability and abandoning Syrian Kurdish forces that brought down Islamic State in Syria.

Trump has warned Turkey to act with moderation and safeguard civilians, and the Pentagon said the operation is a threat to progress in combating ISIS militants and a potential threat to U.S. troops in Syria.

SEE SYRIA ON PAGE 4



## Wildfire rages in LA

Fast-moving flames burn homes, prompting evacuations

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Firefighters battle the Saddleridge fire, which broke out late Thursday amid strong Santa Ana winds, in Sylmar, Calif., on Friday.

DAVID SWANSON/AP

MIDEAST

# Iran: Missiles hit tanker off Saudi Arabia

By NASSER KARIMI AND JON GAMBRELL  
Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Two missiles struck an Iranian tanker traveling through the Red Sea off the coast of Saudi Arabia on Friday, Iranian officials said, the latest incident in the region amid months of heightened tensions between Tehran and the U.S.

There was no word from Saudi Arabia on the reported attack and Saudi officials did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Oil prices spiked by 2% on the news.

"This latest incident, if confirmed to be an act of aggression, is highly likely to be part of the wider narrative of deteriorating relations between Saudi and the U.S. and Iran," private maritime security firm Dryad Maritime warned.

"It is likely that the region ... will face another period of increasing maritime threats, as the Iranian and Saudi geopolitical stand-off continues," it added.

Iranian state television said the explosion damaged two storerooms aboard the oil tanker and caused an oil leak into the Red Sea near the Saudi port city of Jiddah. The leak was later stopped, IRNA reported.

The state-run IRNA news agency, quoting Iran's National Iranian Tanker Co., identified the stricken vessel as the Sabiti. It turned on its tracking devices late Friday morning in the Red Sea, putting its location some 80 miles southwest of Jiddah, according to data from MarineTraffic.com.

The ship is carrying some 1 million barrels of crude oil, according to an analysis from data firm Refinitiv.

Images released by Iran's Petroleum Ministry appeared to show no visible damage to the Sabiti visible from its bridge, though they did not show the ship's sides. Satellite images of the area showed no



Iranian oil tanker the Sabiti travels through the Red Sea on Friday.

SHANA/AP

visible smoke.

The ministry's SHANA news agency said no ship nor any authority in the area responded to its distress messages.

The Sabiti last turned on its tracking devices in August near the Iranian port city of Bandar Abbas. Iranian tankers routinely turn off their trackers as U.S. sanctions target the sale of Iran's crude oil.

"The oil tanker ... sustained damages to the body when it was hit by missiles 60 miles from the Saudi port city of Jiddah," IRNA said. The agency did not say whom Iranian officials suspect of launching the missiles.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi described the incident as an "attack" carried out by those committing "dangerous adventurism." In a statement, Mousavi said the Sabiti was struck twice in the span of a half hour and an investigation was underway.

Lt. Pete Pagano, a spokesman for the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet overseeing the Mideast, said authorities there were "aware of reports of this incident," but declined to comment further.

Benchmark Brent crude oil rose over 2% in trading Friday to reach some \$60.40 a barrel.

The reported attack comes after the U.S. has alleged that in past months Iran attacked oil tankers near the Strait of Hormuz, at the mouth of the Persian Gulf, something denied by Tehran.

Friday's incident could push tensions between Iran and the U.S. even higher, more than a year after President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew America from the nuclear deal and imposed sanctions now crushing Iran's economy.

# Troops: Jets, missiles deploying

## FROM FRONT PAGE

The new troops will include two fighter squadrons, an air expeditionary wing to control fighter operations, two Army Patriot missile batteries and one Army Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, system, the Pentagon said. It did not immediately identify which units would deploy or when they would be sent to Saudi Arabia.

The Patriot batteries join one that was sent last month to Saudi Arabia in response to the oil facility attacks. Patriot batteries typically operate six launchers that shoot defensive surface-to-air missiles designed to protect against short-range ballistic missiles, cruise missiles and aircraft. The THAAD system, also a surface-to-air defensive system, protects against short-, medium- and intermediate-range ballistic missiles, destroying them as they near their target.

Esper had said previously he had placed those air defense units on prepare-to-deploy orders in the event they were deemed necessary. He said Friday he had spoken earlier with Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman, who had requested additional military support.

The United States has also pledged to bolster military support to the United Arab Emirates mostly with equipment, but it has not announced plans to deploy new troops there.

In all, Esper said he has approved an increase of about 3,000 U.S. troops in the Middle East in recent weeks, primarily to Saudi Arabia, aimed at deterring Iran. He said more troops had been notified they could be deployed.

"The U.S. military has on alert additional Army, Navy, Marine

and Air Force units to quickly provide increased capability in the region if necessary," he said. "... We have a full timeline of additional forces that can flow into theater. We are taking this one step at a time."

Currently, the United States has 60,000 to 80,000 troops stationed around the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility, which includes the Middle East and southwest Asia. That includes about 14,000 troops in Afghanistan, 5,200 in Iraq and 1,000 in Syria, according to defense officials.

The new deployment also comes as the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier and the other ships in its strike group near the end of their planned deployment. The Lincoln, which has remained in the Middle East since it was rushed into the region after Iranian provocations in May, departed Norfolk in April, but it is scheduled in the coming weeks to head to its new homeport in San Diego.

Defense officials said Friday the aircraft carrier's deployment had not yet been extended, but they did not rule out that possibility. Esper would have to sign off on such an extension. He declined to comment when asked about the ship Friday.

The U.S. Naval Institute's news wing reported this week that the U.S. Navy has no other aircraft carrier available to backfill the Lincoln in the Middle East if its seven-month deployment is not extended. A Pentagon spokesman on Friday declined to comment on aircraft carrier planning, citing security concerns.

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MILITARY

# Bagram cafe aims for Afghanistan reali-tea

By J.P. LAWRENCE  
Stars and Stripes

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan** — The paintings that line the walls at Bagram's newest eatery depict peaceful mountain vistas, old men having tea, the site of the great Buddha statues in Bamian province.

Handing me my tea, BAF Cafe manager Sushil told me the pictures were meant to show troops what Afghanistan is like outside the blast walls that surround the largest American base in the country.

"Most of the people don't know about the culture, you know?" said Sushil, a native of Nepal.

Servicemembers, Pentagon civilians and contractors from the U.S. and elsewhere can spend months, if not years, at big bases in the Middle East without ever discovering life outside the base.

Kabul-born Riza Rahmdel, the owner of the cafe, wants it to "create cultural awareness" of Afghan life, he said by phone from Canada, where he now lives.

"I want to get it as close as possible to how it's supposed to be; a traditional Afghan tea shop," Rahmdel said.

But it's not quite there yet. "It's a work in progress," said Maria Berrios Borges, general manager of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service in Afghanistan.

Yes, troops can sip saffron tea while surrounded by framed paintings showing the country's beautiful landscapes, but contrary to Rahmdel's vision, little of the food is locally sourced.

Instead of the traditional Afghan "toshaks" — raised cush-

ioned platforms that allow people to sit on the floor with their food — that Rahmdel had hoped to furnish it with, BAF Cafe has Western tables and chairs.

And security concerns meant Rahmdel could not hire Afghans to work at the cafe, as he'd have liked.

Still, I enjoyed my saffron tea, even if it was not as flavorful as what I'd tasted in cafes in Herat, where much of Afghanistan's saffron is grown.

The cafe opened in February, Sushil said. Near the main post exchange and some shops, it competes with an established food court featuring an American-style coffee shop and a Pizza Hut — and Wi-Fi, which the cafe lacks.

When I stopped in at about noon one recent Thursday, I was the only customer at first.

But as I sipped some invigorating green tea a little later, soldiers and airmen entered — initially a few and then a group of a half-dozen. Some played a board game, while others chatted with Afghan contractors.

Sergio Sanchez, a Defense Department civilian employee, comes here most Thursday nights, he told me. He likes that the cafe is quiet, unlike the bustling food court.

The pictures of peaceful, rural Afghanistan help him unwind as he drinks his tea, he said.

Even if the place is not as authentic as its proprietor and AAFES had hoped, the tea was steaming hot and delicious.

"It's the closest you're going to be able to get to a real Afghan experience here," one airman told me.

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**Above:** Jawid Kaderi, an Afghan-American contractor who works at Bagram Air Base, drinks tea with a fellow contractor and an airman Sept. 19 at BAF Cafe. The cafe, the base's newest eatery, aims to offer troops and others an authentic Afghan tea shop experience.

**Left:** Sushil Budhathoki and Dev Raj Neupane, workers from Nepal, show goods available at BAF Cafe.

PHOTOS BY J.P. LAWRENCE/  
Stars and Stripes



PAUL ERNO, KNOXVILLE (TENN.) NEWS SENTINEL/AP

**Medal of Honor recipient Francis Currey, right, attends the 2014 Congressional Medal of Honor State convention in Knoxville, Tenn. New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo directed flags on state government buildings to be flown at half-staff Friday in honor of Currey, a Selkirk, N.Y., resident who died Tuesday.**

## WWII Medal of Honor recipient dies at 94

By EMILY LANGER  
The Washington Post

Francis Currey, who received the Medal of Honor for almost single-handedly holding back a German attack on a town during the Battle of the Bulge, has died.

Currey, one of the last three surviving recipients of the Medal of Honor for valor during World War II, decided one week after his high school graduation in 1943 to join the Army.

He shipped out in the spring of 1944 for Europe, making his way from Normandy in the wake of the D-Day invasion to the Netherlands and then, by winter, to the Ardennes region of Belgium. There, as a 19-year-old private first class during the Battle of the Bulge, the infantryman was credited with holding back a German attack on the town of Malmédy.

For his actions — heralded days later in a New York Times

account reporting that he had "helped immobilize three German tanks, wiped out a house full of Nazis, rescued six of his trapped buddies and saved five wounded men" — Currey received the Medal of Honor, the military's highest decoration. He died Oct. 8 at his home in Selkirk, N.Y.

He was 94 and had congestive heart failure, said his daughter, Kathryn Domery.

Currey's Medal of Honor — which he received on July 27, 1945, after the Allied victory in Europe and just before the defeat of Japan — was one of 472 awarded for service during World War II, according to the Congressional Medal of Honor Society.

His death leaves two living honorees from that conflict: Charles Coolidge, 98, who was recognized for his actions as an Army technical sergeant in France in the fall of 1944, and

Hershel "Woody" Williams, 96, recognized for his bravery as a Marine Corps corporal at Iwo Jima in the Pacific.

Currey, who was 6 feet tall but only 130 pounds, found himself at the heart of the Battle of the Bulge, the last major German offensive of World War II and a bloody affair resulting in 80,000 American and 100,000 German casualties. The town of Malmédy became infamous as the site of a massacre by Waffen-SS troops of more than 80 U.S. soldiers who had been forced to surrender at the start of the battle.

Reflecting on his actions, he told the Times-Union newspaper in Albany, N.Y., decades later, "It was just one day of nine months of steady combat."

After the war, Currey worked as a benefits counselor at a veterans hospital in Albany and ran a landscaping business.

## MIDEAST

# Esper warns of 'consequences' over invasion

By CATILIN M. KENNEY  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Mark Esper "strongly encouraged" Turkey's defense minister to stop its incursion into northeastern Syria during a call Thursday, saying the operation "risks serious consequences for Turkey," according to a Pentagon statement released Friday.

On Tuesday, Turkey started its military action into northeast Syria to attack areas where the Syrian Democratic Forces were operating along the border with Turkey.

After the fall of the Islamic State caliphate in Syria in March, the United States kept military forces in northeast Syria to ensure that the remaining fighters in the terrorist group do not reform. The Kurdish-led SDF was instrumental in the fight against ISIS and worked alongside U.S. forces.

During a Friday news briefing at the Pentagon, Esper denied that the U.S. had turned its back on the SDF.

"To be clear, we are not abandoning our Kurdish partner forces, and U.S. troops remain with them in other parts of Syria," he said.

Esper told Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar during their call that the United States opposes Turkey's "uncoordinated actions as they place at risk the progress made by the Defeat-ISIS Coalition," according to the Pentagon statement by Chief Pentagon spokesman Jonathan Hoffman.

"While the secretary reaffirmed we value our strategic bilateral relationship, this incursion risks serious consequences for Turkey," the statement says. "The secretary also reiterated his strong concern that, despite U.S. force protection measures, Turkey's actions could harm U.S. personnel in Syria."

The U.S. NATO partner, has raised security concerns about the Syrian Kurdish forces, specifically the YPG forces, near its border. Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan told President Donald Trump during a phone call Sunday that he was going to conduct an operation in that area.

Trump responded, saying the U.S. would pull its forces from key posts in northern Syria. The SDF immediately condemned the decision, saying that they would defend themselves against a Turkish attack.

Esper denied that the U.S. "greenlighted" Turkey's

incursion.

"Just the opposite," he said Friday. "We pushed back very hard at all levels for the Turks not to commence this operation."

In Thursday's call, Esper "strongly encouraged" Turkey to discontinue actions in northeastern Syria "so that they could 'deescalate the situation before it becomes irreparable.'"

Trump told reporters Thursday at the White House that he hoped the U.S., Turkey and the Syrian Kurds could mediate the situation.

"So what we have is really two choices: You have the choice of bringing in the military and defeating everybody again, or you have the choice of financially doing some very strong things to Turkey ... We have a very good

**‘To be clear, we are not abandoning our Kurdish partner forces, and U.S. troops remain with them in other parts of Syria.’**

Mark Esper has coordinated with

Turkey's military where American forces remain in Syria in order to protect them, Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters Friday.

"Everyone is fully aware that we are the United States military, we retain the right of self-defense. And our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines will defend themselves," he said. "That's clear, and it's unambiguous with anybody."

The White House is putting Turkey on notice that it could face new "powerful sanctions" and that the U.S. will "shut down the Turkish economy" if Ankara goes too far in its incursion against the Kurds in northern Syria.

Later on Friday, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said at the White House the U.S. hopes it will not have to use its new, expanded sanctions authority Trump has authorized.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.  
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Flames rising from burned cars at the site of an explosion in the central Qamishli city in northeastern Syria, on Friday.

ANHA/AP

## Syria: EU threatens sanctions on Turkey

FROM FRONT PAGE

Plumes of black smoke billowed Friday from the Syrian border town of Tal Abyad as Turkey continued bombarding the area in an offensive that was progressing "successfully as planned," the Turkish Defense Ministry said.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said the military intends to move 19 miles into northern Syria and that its operation will last until all "terrorists are neutralized." NATO member Turkey considers the Syrian Kurdish fighters to be terrorists linked to a Kurdish insurgency inside Turkey and says the offensive is a counterterrorism operation necessary for its own national security.

The Defense Ministry statement reported the death of two Turkish soldiers, with three wounded, but did not give details. Defense Minister Hulusi Akar said 342 "terrorists" — Ankara's term for Syrian Kurdish militiamen — have been killed so far. The figure could not be independently verified. Syrian activists say only eight fighters were killed.

The Kurdish militia has fired dozens of mortars into border towns inside Turkey in the past two days, including Akcakale, according to officials in two provinces on the Turkish side. They said at least nine civilians were killed, including a 9-month-old boy and three girls under 15.

Mourners in Akcakale carried the coffin of the slain boy, Mohammed Omar Saar, as many shouted, "Damn the PKK!" referring to the Kurdish insurgent group in Turkey linked to Syrian Kurdish fighters. The PKK is considered a terrorist group by Turkey, the United States and other countries.

The latest attack hit the town of Suruc, and a child in the town of Ceylanpinar died of his wounds Thursday night, the Anadolu

Agency reported.

At the Syrian side, seven civilians have been killed since Wednesday, activists said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said he doubts that the Turkish army has enough resources to take control of prison camps in the region housing Islamic State detainees, and he fears the captured fighters "could just run away," leading to a revival of the militant group.

"We have to be aware of this and mobilize the resources of our intelligence to undercut this emerging tangible threat," Putin said during a visit to Turkmenistan.

The Syrian Kurdish forces had been holding more than 10,000 ISIS members, but they said they are being forced to abandon some of those positions to fight the Turkish invasion.

In Washington, chief Pentagon spokesman Jonathan Hoffman said Defense Secretary Mark Esper "made clear" in a phone call Thursday with his Turkish counterpart that the U.S. opposes the incursion.

Esper told his counterpart that the military actions "place at risk" the progress made to defeat the extremists and he urged Turkey to stop its operation, according to Hoffman. Esper also said the incursion "risks serious consequences" for Turkey, and he expressed his concern that it could harm U.S. personnel in Syria.

Separately, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg urged Ankara to exercise restraint, although he acknowledged what he said was Turkey's legitimate security concerns about the Syrian Kurdish fighters.

In a joint news conference with Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu, Stoltenberg also expressed worry that the Turkish offensive could "jeopardize" gains made against ISIS. Cavusoglu said Turkey expected solidar-

ity from its allies.

It is not enough to say you understand Turkey's legitimate concerns, we want to see this solidarity in a clear way," he said.

European Union Council chief Donald Tusk said Turkey's operation is of "grave concern." Abandoning the Kurdish fighters who have been crucial in the fight against ISIS "is not only a bad idea" but raises many "questions both of a strategic and moral nature," Tusk said.

He said a threat by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to "open the gates" and let Syrian refugees flood into Europe was "totally out of place," adding that the EU will never accept "that refugees are weaponized and used to blackmail us."

Amelie de Montchalin, the French secretary for European affairs, said sanctions against Turkey will be "on the table" at next week's European Union summit because of the incursion, telling France Inter radio that Europe should respond to what she described as a shocking situation against civilians and the Kurdish fighters in Syria.

European diplomats in Brussels have responded cautiously to the idea of sanctions, even though Turkey's actions have been met with near-unanimous criticism.

The Turkish assault aims to create a corridor of control along Turkey's border — a so-called "safe zone" — clearing out the Syrian Kurdish fighters. Such a zone would end the Kurds' autonomy in the area and put much of their population under Turkish control. Ankara wants to settle 2 million Syrian refugees, mainly Arabs, in the zone.

The U.N. refugee agency said tens of thousands of people have fled their homes since Wednesday, while the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a war monitoring group, put the figure at more than 60,000.

## MIDEAST

# Turkey's invasion raises fears of ISIS prison break

By **BASSEM MROUE**  
Associated Press

**BEIRUT**—In the sprawling al-Hol camp in northeastern Syria, Islamic State wives and widows have set up special courts, stabbed to death at least two people accused of apostasy and wielded knives and pistols in clashes with their Kurdish guards.

Now, as Turkish troops invade northern Syria and the U.S. abandons its Kurdish allies, there are renewed fears of a prison break in the camp that could give new life to the extremist group.

The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, who captured much of northeastern Syria from ISIS with close U.S. military support, are mobilizing to stop the Turkish invasion and say they may not be able to spare enough forces to secure al-Hol, home to tens of thousands of ISIS-linked women and their children, and other detention camps holding more than 10,000 male militants, including some 2,000 foreign fighters. ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, who remains at large, called for his supporters last month to attack the camps and set the detainees free.

Turkey views the Kurdish fight-

ers as terrorists because of their links to the Kurdish insurgency in its southeast. The U.S. is also planning to relocate dozens of the most feared ISIS prisoners to detention facilities in neighboring Iraq, according to Iraqi officials.

The al-Hol camp is some 30 miles from the Turkish border, outside the "safe zone" Turkey plans to set up in northern Syria. But as the fighting worsens, there is a heightened risk that large numbers of detainees could escape.

The SDF is already struggling to maintain order and that ISIS is likely to exploit the chaos unleashed by the Turkish invasion to mobilize prisoners, said Lina Khatib, head of the Middle East and North Africa Program at Chatham House, a London-based think tank.

ISIS lost its last foothold of territory in March when the Syrian Kurdish forces captured the eastern village of Baghouz with U.S. support.

But inside the overcrowded and squalid al-Hol camp, the group's violent ideology is alive and well, and a new generation is being indoctrinated. The International Committee of the Red Cross says



PHOTOS BY MAYA ALLERUZZO/AP

**Women line up for aid supplies, on March 31, at al-Hol camp in Hasakeh province, Syria. As Turkish troops invade northern Syria, there are renewed fears of a prison break in the camp that could give new life to the extremist group.**

the more than 40,000 children in the camp "have experienced more violence, trauma and displacement in their short life than any of us can imagine."

Female ISIS members have turned one of their tents into a court administering the group's harsh interpretation of Islamic law. Last month, they found a 16-year-old girl guilty of apostasy. After the verdict was announced, women pulled knives from their all-enveloping black robes and stabbed her repeatedly.

Al-Hol is home to some 71,400 people, mostly wives, widows and children of ISIS fighters. They were swept up in the long and grueling military campaign that eventually dismantled the extremists' self-styled caliphate.

On Oct. 1, police stormed a tent and rescued two women who had

been sentenced to die and were about to be stabbed to death, he said, adding that ISIS supporters fought back with knives and pistols. He said another raid in September uncovered hand grenades and the body of a woman who was killed by other detainees and has yet to be identified.

Azadeh Moaveni, an analyst for the Crisis Group, a Brussels-based think tank, visited the camp in late June. She said hard-line detainees were trying to maintain the cruel strictures of the caliphate inside the camp, including by whipping women who were caught smoking and encouraging their own children to beat up the children of those deemed unbelievers.

Like many other detention camps in Syria and Iraq, al-Hol is overcrowded and reliant on international aid. Sewage runs

through the muddy alleys, food is sometimes scarce and the water used for drinking and cleaning is contaminated.

"We are extremely worried about the well-being of the people held in the camp," Robert Oms, the emergency manager in Syria for Doctors Without Borders, known by its French acronym MSF, said. He said MSF was forced to temporarily reduce its activities and that other aid groups were struggling to deliver much-needed assistance to a "very vulnerable population."

Aid groups have warned that conditions in the camps could get even worse with the Turkish offensive.

Abdul-Karim Omar, who acts as foreign minister in northeastern Syria's Kurdish-led administration, says al-Hol is a "ticking bomb."

## NATO lacks mechanism to expel members for missteps

By **JOHN VANDIVER**  
Stars and Stripes

**STUTT GART, Germany**—Turkey's invasion of Syria has generated widespread international condemnation, infuriated allies and raised questions about whether the country's inclusion within NATO should be reconsidered.

But even if there was consensus inside NATO about kicking Turkey out, the 70-year-old military alliance faces this key obstacle: no mechanism exists in NATO's founding charter for revoking a state's membership.

While Article 13 in NATO's Washington Treaty offers a way for a county to quit, the charter is silent on how to force out a member state that has fallen out of favor.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., on the eve of Turkey's Wednesday push into northern Syria, said he would "call for their suspension from NATO" if the U.S.'s Kurdish partners in the fight against the Islamic State group came under attack.

Similar statements have been made this week by some European politicians and former



PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SERVICE/AP

**NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, left, meets with Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Istanbul, on Friday.**

American military leaders, who say Turkey's incursion into Syria should be answered with suspension or expulsion from the 29-nation NATO alliance.

Other international organizations such as the United Nations and European Union have legal mechanisms for suspending and even removing members,

but NATO does not, said Jorge Benitez, a NATO expert with the Atlantic Council think tank.

"The issue has been raised several times before, when the behavior of a NATO member is in conflict with the values of the alliance and the spirit of the Washington Treaty, such as (past) military coups in Greece and

Turkey," Benitez said.

Should NATO ever decide to remove a member, it would have to amend its treaty. And that would mean getting unanimous support from all members, including Turkey.

During the course of NATO's history, members have fallen out of favor numerous times and debates have swirled about how to deal with a recalcitrant ally.

In 1974, allied leaders discreetly debated suspending Portugal's membership in NATO following a leftist coup, Benitez said.

Instead, the Portuguese were quietly sanctioned and excluded from most NATO activities during 1974-1975.

"The historical record is that NATO deals with these problems by privately sanctioning the member violating alliance values, but does not officially terminate their membership," Benitez said.

Ultimately, NATO leaders wait out the misbehaving national leaders until a government consistent with alliance values eventually returns to power, he said.

"It is important to note, that in these cases NATO members act more strongly outside of the alliance, through their bilateral

relationships with the offending government," Benitez said.

For example, the U.S. Congress cut off military aid to Turkey after it intervened in Cyprus in the 1970s. Turkey responded by cutting off American access to military bases in the country.

A current example would be Norway, which on Thursday announced it will block exports of military equipment to Turkey.

Inside NATO, there are other steps allies can take to punish a member, such as withholding information and excluding them from alliance meetings, Benitez said.

For its part, NATO continues to emphasize that Turkey is an ally in good standing.

"Turkey is a valued ally," said a NATO official, speaking on customary condition of anonymity. "We have deep relations that allies built over decades."

On the issue of how the alliance would go about expelling a member, the official said, "this is a hypothetical question, which would be a matter for the parties to the treaty to determine."

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## NATION

# Wildfire rages on LA's northern edge

By STEFANIE DAZIO  
AND JOHN ANTCAK  
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A wildfire raged out of control along the northern edge of Los Angeles early Friday, forcing thousands of people from their homes as firefighters battled flames from the air and on the ground.

Police Chief Michel Moore said mandatory evacuations encompassed about 100,000 people in over 20,000 homes.

Fire Chief Ralph Terrazas said the fire had grown to more than 7 square miles, and at least 25 homes had been damaged. A middle-aged man who was near where the fire was burning went into cardiac arrest and died, the chief said, but he did not have details.

The blaze erupted at about 9 p.m. Thursday along the northern tier of the San Fernando Valley as powerful Santa Ana winds swept through Southern California.

Terrazas said there were sustained winds of 20-25 mph, with gusts over 50 mph, and relative humidity levels had fallen as low as 3%.

"As you can imagine, the embers from the wind have been traveling a significant distance, which causes another fire to start," Terrazas said.

The fire erupted in Sylmar, the northernmost portion of the valley, and spread westward at a rate of 800 acres an hour into Porter Ranch, part of a so-called urban-wildland interface, where subdivisions crowd against the foothills of the Santa Susana Mountains. The cause of the fire wasn't immediately known.

Porter Ranch, an upper middle-class suburb that was the backdrop for the 1982 movie "E.T." is no stranger to evacuations. Four years ago, a blowout at an underground natural gas well operated by Southern California Gas Co. in the neighboring Aliso Canyon storage facility drove 8,000 families from their homes.

In Northern California, the lights were back on Friday for more than half of the 2 million residents who lost electricity after the Pacific Gas and Electric Co. utility switched it off on Wednesday to prevent its equipment from sparking wildfires during dry, windy weather.

PG&E restored the power after workers inspected power lines to make sure it was safe to do so. The winds had increased the possibility of transmission lines toppling to the ground and starting wildfires.

Helicopters made repeated water drops as crews in Los Angeles attacked flames in and around homes. Water- and retardant-dropping airplanes joined the battle after daybreak. About

## Businesses face reality of outages

Associated Press

SONOMA, Calif. — Retailers and other businesses, from hardware chains to coffee shops, are dealing with a new economic reality of electrical outages in Northern California.

Many struggled to keep their businesses open on the second day after the nation's biggest utility, Pacific Gas & Electric, cut off power to more than a million people to mitigate the risk of wildfires as heavy winds swept through.

Home improvement chains Lowe's and Home Depot said their stores have been busy with people seeking generators, batteries and flashlights. Both companies said their stores are open and that they are working to bring more emergency supplies to the affected areas. But for many mom-and-pop outlets, it was even more of a struggle as they can't rely on sophisticated distribution centers to keep restocking shelves.

Workers at both small businesses and big chains turned to creative ways to serve customers either in the dark or with limited power from generators. They tabulated sales on a piece of paper. They brought flashlights to work and guided customers to dark areas of the store to help them find batteries and other emergency supplies.

Friedman's Home Improvement store in Sonoma, Calif., lost power Wednesday but remained open with a limited amount of electricity from generators.

1,000 firefighters were on the lines.

Edwin Bernard, 73, said he and his wife were forced to leave their four cats behind as they fled their Sylmar home.

Bernard, standing outside the evacuation center at the Sylmar Recreation Center on Friday, said they were only able to grab their three dogs. During a previous wildfire, they'd had time to find their passports and photo albums, but not Thursday night.

"The fireman said, 'go, go, go,'" Bernard said. "It was a whole curtain of fire," he said. "There was fire on all sides. We had to leave."



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL OWEN BAKER/AP

Los Angeles Police Department Chief Michel Moore tells Jerry Rowe that firefighters are coming after the roof of Rowe's home caught fire from the Saddleridge fire in Granada Hills, Calif., Friday.



A firefighter runs up a driveway with hoses as the Saddleridge fire threatens homes in Granada Hills.

NATION

# Ex-envoy testifies despite Trump's opposition

By ADAM GELLER  
AND MARY CLARE JALONICK  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch appeared on Capitol Hill Friday for a deposition in the Democrats' impeachment inquiry, accepting lawmakers' invitation to testify despite President Donald Trump's declaration that his administration wouldn't cooperate with the probe.

Yovanovitch was recalled from her post in May and is now a State Department fellow at Georgetown University. Trump said earlier this week that he would block all officials from testifying, saying the probe was unfair and "illegitimate." It's unclear if Yovanovitch's appearance signals a shift in that strategy or if she is breaking with White House policy.

Democrats are investigating Trump's ties to Ukrainian officials to launch investigations of political rival Joe Biden and his family. Yovanovitch was recalled from Kyiv in May as Rudy Giuliani — who is

Trump's personal attorney and has no official role in the U.S. government — pushed Ukrainian officials to investigate baseless corruption allegations against the Bidens.

Yovanovitch was removed from her post after insisting that Giuliani's requests to Ukrainian officials for investigations be relayed through official channels, according to a former diplomat who has spoken with her.

In a July 25 phone call, Trump told Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy that Yovanovitch was "bad news," according to a partial transcript released by the White House. Neither Giuliani nor Trump has publicly specified their objections to Yovanovitch.

Businessmen with ties to Giuliani lobbied a U.S. congressman in 2018 for help ousting Yovanovitch, according to an indictment made public Thursday following the men's arrest. It alleges that the men leveraged a flurry of GOP political donations to force Yovanovitch's removal, an effort prosecutors say was aided by laundered foreign money.

The former diplomat who spoke with Yovanovitch said the ambassador refused to do "all this offline, personal, informal stuff" and made clear that the U.S. government had formal ways to request foreign governments' help with investigations. The former diplomat insisted on anonymity to disclose the private conversation.



Yovanovitch

The State Department traditionally relies on mutual legal assistance treaties, under which U.S.

and foreign officials agree to exchange evidence and information in criminal investigations.

Yovanovitch was to speak to the House Intelligence, Foreign Affairs and Oversight and Reform committees behind closed doors Friday. The committees are scheduled to talk to several other U.S. dip-

lomats next week, as well.

On Monday, Fiona Hill, a former White House adviser who focused on Russia, is expected to testify. Three current State Department officials also are tentatively scheduled next week — Deputy Assistant Secretary of State George Kent, U.S. Ambassador to the European Union Gordon Sondland, and Ulrich Brechbuhl, a State Department counselor.

Sondland was originally scheduled for a deposition this past Tuesday but did not show up. Trump tweeted afterward that he couldn't let Sondland testify because the Democratic-led probe was "compromised."

The committees subpoenaed Sondland hours later for a deposition next week, and his attorneys said Friday he would testify on Oct. 17, despite the administration's position. A statement from his attorneys said, however, that Sondland would not be able to produce documents "concerning his official responsibilities," as they were controlled by the State Department.

## Appeals court rules House should get Trump financials

By MARK SHERMAN  
AND JESSICA GRESKO  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A federal appeals court ruled Friday that President Donald Trump's financial records must be turned over to the House of Representatives.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit said that lawmakers should get the documents they have subpoenaed from Mazars USA. The firm has provided accounting services to Trump.

Trump went to court to prevent Mazars from turning over the records. He could appeal to the Supreme Court.

Rep. Elijah Cummings, D-Md., chairman of the House committee that is seeking the records, called for prompt compliance. "After months of delay, it is time for the President to stop blocking Mazars from complying with the Committee's lawful subpoena," Cummings said in a statement.

The House Committee on Oversight and Reform subpoenaed records from Mazars in April.

They include documents from 2011 to 2018 that the House wants for investigation into the president's reporting of his finances and potential conflicts of interest. The list of documents makes no mention of Trump's tax returns, which are the subject of separate legal disputes.

In a 2-1 ruling, the appeals court batted away Trump's legal claims.

"Contrary to the President's arguments, the Committee possesses authority under both the House Rules and the Constitution to issue the subpoena, and Mazars must comply," Judge David Tatel wrote, joined by Judge Patricia Millett.

Tatel was appointed by President Bill Clinton. Millett is an

**‘After months of delay, it is time for the President to stop blocking Mazars from complying with the Committee's lawful subpoena.’**

Rep. Elijah Cummings  
D-Md.

appointee of President Barack Obama.

Trump appointee Neomi Rao wrote in dissent that the committee should have asked for the records under the House's impeachment power, not its legislative authority.

"The Constitution and our historical practice draw a consistent line between the legislative and judicial powers of Congress. The majority crosses this boundary for the first time by upholding this subpoena investigating the illegal conduct of the President under the legislative power," Rao wrote.

The case is one of several working its way through courts in which Trump is fighting with Congress over records. The House Ways and Means Committee has sued the Trump administration over access to the president's tax returns. In New York, Trump sued to prevent Deutsche Bank and Capital One from complying with House subpoenas for banking and financial records. A judge ruled against him, and Trump appealed. Trump also is in court trying to stop the Manhattan District Attorney from obtaining his tax returns.



RICHARD TSONG-TATARINI, (MINNEAPOLIS) STAR TRIBUNE/AP

Supporters listen as President Donald Trump addresses the crowd at a rally in Minneapolis.

# Trump attacks Biden, slams impeachment probe at rally

By ZEKE MILLER,  
STEVE KARNOWSKI  
AND JONATHAN LEMIRE  
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — President Donald Trump was defiant in the face of an impeachment probe as he sought to convert the threat to his presidency into a weapon on the campaign trail, with biting and unsupported attacks on potential Democratic challenger Joe Biden.

Confronting an investigation provoked by his unprecedented calls for Ukraine and then China to assist in digging up dirt on his political rivals, Trump continued to lay into Biden and his son Hunter, whom he and his allies have accused of illegally profiting off his father's office.

"The Bidens got rich, and that is substantiated, while America

got robbed." Trump said while the young Biden did have business interest overseas while he father was in office, there is no evidence of misconduct. Trump's adult children have faced congressional scrutiny for their foreign business dealings while their father is serving as president, and Trump still maintains ownership stakes in his family's businesses.

The rally in Minneapolis, the first since Democrats began proceedings two weeks ago to remove him from office, served as a proving ground for the president as he tries to use the impeachment inquiry to energize supporters for his 2020 campaign by casting himself — and his supporters — as victims of Washington Democrats.

The performance revealed a defense strategy largely detached from the allegations Trump

faced. "They want to erase your vote like it never existed," Trump said. "They want to erase your voice, and they want to erase your future."

He added, "The Democrats' brazen attempt to overthrow our government will produce a backlash at the ballot box the likes of which they have never ever seen before in the history of this country."

Trump was by his own admission fired up and off script as he spoke for more than 90 minutes. Few of his political opponents were spared. He said Biden "was only a good vice president because he knew how to kiss Barack Obama's ass." He called Minnesota Rep. Ilhan Omar "a disgrace" and an "America-hating socialist." He said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi was "really stupid."

## NATION

# El Paso shooting suspect pleads not guilty in 22 deaths

By CEDAR ATTANSIO  
Associated Press

EL PASO, Texas — The man charged with capital murder in the fatal shooting of 22 people at a Walmart in El Paso, Texas, pleaded not guilty Thursday during a brief initial hearing.

Police have said Patrick Crusius, 21, of Dallas confessed to the Aug. 3 mass shooting and that he targeted Mexicans. Some two-dozen people survived the attack with injuries, and two of them remain in the hospital, according to hospital officials.

Crusius walked into the courtroom wearing a dark suit, white shirt and glasses. He was sworn in, waived the reading of his indictment and pleaded not guilty. The entire hearing lasted less than three minutes.

About 80 members of the public crammed into the courtroom on the top floor of the El Paso County Courthouse to witness his first appearance. A handful wiped away tears as Crusius pronounced his plea.

Among the crowd was a delegation from the Mexican Consulate. Eight Mexican citizens were killed in the attack, and most of the victims had Hispanic last names. Among the dead was a

German citizen who lived in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico.

A bailiff had asked the court to remain quiet and warned against outbursts.

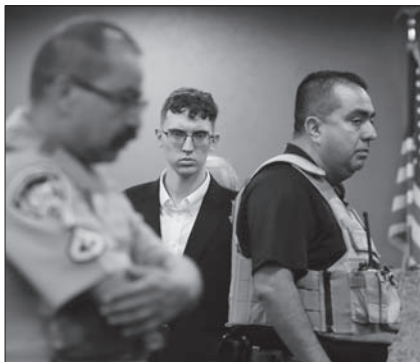
Local prosecutors have said they will seek the death penalty. Federal authorities are weighing capital murder and hate crime charges. The Department of Justice has called the shooting an act of domestic terrorism.

There were 2,000 witnesses at the scene of the massacre, so almost everybody in the city of about 700,000 knew somebody affected by the shooting.

The first judge assigned to the case recused herself because she knew one of the people killed in the attack. The lead prosecutor said his sister also was in the Walmart during the attack and that the gunman walked right by her.

Crusius fled the scene of the shooting in his car but turned himself in less than an hour later, according to police. His arrest warrant says he declared: "I'm the shooter."

In documents filed Thursday, the El Paso prosecutor notified the court that he had shared evidence with the defense on Sept. 27. That evidence includes police and FBI interviews with Crusius,



BRIANA SANCHEZ, THE EL PASO (TEXAS) TIMES/AP

Walmart shooting suspect Patrick Crusius, center, pleads not guilty during his arraignment Thursday in El Paso, Texas.

data from his cellphone, records from the Dallas-area schools he attended and tens of hours of footage captured by Walmart security cameras around the time of the shooting, according to court records.

The court records also included medical images taken from shooting victims and jail mail and phone calls involving Crusius after his arrest.

It also includes the FBI's "manifesto analysis" — a likely reference to a racist screed railing against an influx of Hispanics into the U.S. that authorities have said Crusius posted online before the shooting.

Meanwhile, the Crusius legal team appealed for open mind as they present their portrait of Crusius.

"There are two sides to this

story," said Mark Stevens, of San Antonio, lead defense attorney. "We'll ask everybody, media and everybody else, to keep an open mind until you hear both sides of the story, what comes out in the courtroom."

Joe Spencer, of El Paso, the assistant defense attorney, said he and Stevens "are morally opposed to the death penalty" and that they "will use every breath we have to try to save Patrick's life." He added that the El Paso community needs closure and healing, "and the quickest way to get closure and healing is not through seeking the death penalty."

Crusius is being held without bond in an El Paso jail. He has been on suicide watch since shortly after his arrest and is separated from other prisoners.

## Study: Russia tweets linked to release of hacked emails

By TAMI ABDOLLAH  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Russia's interference in the 2016 U.S. election has generally been seen as two separate, unrelated tracks: hacking Democratic emails and sending provocative tweets. But a new study suggests the tactics were likely intertwined.

On the eve of the release of hacked Hillary Clinton campaign emails, Russian-linked trolls retweeted messages from thousands of accounts on both extremes of the American ideological spectrum.

Those retweets increased the odds selected Twitter users would be online and able to express outrage when the next day, on Oct. 7, details such as the revelation that Clinton may have had early access to a primary debate question were released.

Those retweets also brought those lesser-known users a wider audience, encouraging them to tweet more and, ultimately, helping polarize American public debate.

In the study, Clemson University professors Darren L. Linvill and Patrick J. Warren say messages were retweeted from some 4,000 accounts on Oct. 6, 2016, the day before Wikileaks' release of hacked emails belonging to Clinton's campaign chair, John Podesta.

Through the retweets, Russian trolls amplified messages on the fringes of American politics. Twitter users, especially on the far left, responded negatively to revelations about Clinton, fulfilling Russia's attempt to boost Donald Trump's candidacy and add to the divisiveness in American politics.

Ultimately, those retweeted users gained a total of 500,000 new followers over the next four days, the study found. The increase in followers apparently prompted the Twitter users to tweet more. The report found that, overall, they had sent 600,000 more tweets over those four days than they would have otherwise. The researchers based this figure on a comparison with similar Twitter accounts that had not had a retweet from a Russian troll during that period.

The research was supported by a Charles Koch Foundation grant. The authors say the foundation and its conservative leader did not influence the findings, which are in line with other bipartisan research on Russian meddling in elections.

While the existence of a spike in Twitter activity on Oct. 6, 2016, has been known and the authors prior work was cited in Tuesday's release of a Senate Intelligence Committee report on Russia's use of social media during the election, exactly what those trolls were doing has not been previously detailed.

## Union indicates to GM strike won't end quickly

Associated Press

DETROIT — General Motors Chief Executive Mary Barra has stepped into contract talks with striking auto workers, asking the union to wrap up outstanding issues and respond to a company offer made this week.

But in a letter to GM's top bargainer Thursday, United Auto Workers Vice President Terry Dittes wrote that there won't be a response to Monday's offer until committees working issues are finished. He didn't know how long that would take.

Details of the Wednesday meeting between Barra and top union bargainers were disclosed in the letter, which was obtained by The Associated Press. It's an indication that there won't be a quick end to the nearly monthlong strike by 49,000 workers that has halted production at all of GM's U.S. factories.

Both sides are separated on major economic issues such as wages and lump-sum payments and better pensions that will be bargained at the "main table" by

top negotiators.

Committees are working on issues such as products for factories that GM wants to close, investments in other U.S. factories and training for union workers to handle future technology, according to Dittes' letter. They're also haggling over company-paid legal services for union members and the future of a joint UAW-GM training center in Detroit, the letter said.

But the company, in a Thursday letter to Dittes, said GM expected the union to move more quickly and respond to the larger offer before the committee work is done.

"At the meeting, Mary Barra emphasized the need to get a comprehensive response from the union as soon as possible," wrote Scott Sandefur, GM's top bargainer.

Dittes wrote that when the committees finish, the union will turn in a comprehensive proposal in response to the company's offer.

"The completion of those committees is not known at this point,"



PAUL SANCYA/AP

Yolanda Jacobs, a United Auto Workers member, walks the picket line at the General Motors Romulus Powertrain plant in Romulus, Mich., on Wednesday.

Dittes wrote, adding that committees have been meeting since 3:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Workers walked off their jobs on Sept. 16 after their four-year contract expired. The strike will be a month old on Monday.

An analyst estimates that GM

is losing \$82 million per day, while workers are striking to live on \$250 per week in survive pay.

The strike has forced parts-supply companies to lay off workers and has made GM close some of its factories in Canada and Mexico.



## NATION

# Deadly currents stalk swimmers

By DINAH VOYLES PULVER  
StarNews of Wilmington

WILMINGTON, N.C. — Hurricane Lorenzo's powerful currents and rough surf claimed at least four lives in North Carolina last month, including that of a top executive from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and two swimmers in Kure Beach.

The drownings — and dozens of additional rescues as the hurricane pounded the Atlantic coast for days — bring new attention to the dangers of swimming in the open waters.

Powerful currents, high surf and unexpectedly large "sneaker waves" have claimed at least 85 lives this year alone, according to National Weather Service statistics. The drownings happened on the Atlantic, Pacific and Gulf coasts, as well as along the Great Lakes.

"People consider the ocean a swimming pool and not a very dynamic, turbulent place," said Francis Smith, a research scientist at the University of California, Berkeley. But nothing could be further from the truth, he said. "It's powerful."

More people die from surf zone incidents than any other single weather-related cause except flooding. Between 2014 and 2018, flooding killed 549 people. Currents, high surf and surprise waves killed 510, weather service records show. Nearly two-thirds of them were caught in rip currents.

The 2014-2018 deaths, which span the entire United States and its territories, are greater than the combined number of fatalities by lightning, tornadoes and hurricanes over the same five years.

The count is a minimum, the weather service said, and may not include every death.

Beachgoers face a far greater risk of drowning in a rip current than they do being bitten by a shark, said Stephen Leatherman, a professor in the Department of Earth and Environment at Florida International University.

And yet, Leatherman said the death toll "almost seems like a secret to some degree."

"People see one shark and everybody goes nuts," he said. But twice as many people are killed by currents and waves in the U.S. than are bitten by sharks.

Leatherman also known as Dr. Beach for his annual ranking of the nation's best beaches, calls the ocean's strong currents "silent killers."

The National Weather Service posts warnings about dangerous conditions in an effort to prevent such deaths.

It did so throughout late September as Hurricane Lorenzo churned the waters from Florida to North Carolina.

On the morning of Sept. 30, it advised beachgoers in Duck, N.C., on the Outer Banks that the risk of rip currents was high: "It is recommended that you stay out of the water."



**Above: Carolina Beach Ocean Rescue Lifeguard Shawn Johnson looks out at the surf in Carolina Beach N.C., last month. More deaths occur from surf zone incidents than any other single weather-related cause except flooding. Left: A surfer rides a wave near Crystal Pier in Wrightsville Beach, N.C., on Oct. 2.**

PHOTOS BY MATT BORN, THE STAR-NEWS/AP

But Bill Lapenta, NOAA's director of the National Centers for Environmental Prediction, was later pulled from the ocean unresponsive and could not be revived.

"Surf conditions and a rip current in the area were likely a factor" in his death, according to a town news release.

Lapenta's death was especially discouraging, Leatherman said.

He said if a trained professional can still get caught up in a rip current and die, what chance does the average person have who doesn't have that training or background have?

John and Suzi Merical know the answer to that question all too well. Their only child, Paige, was pulled out to sea in a rip current on April 19 during a beach trip to Emerald Isle, N.C.

She had been at the beach just 45 minutes when a stranger used Paige's phone to call her mother to relay the horrific news. Although Paige was rescued and taken to the hospital, she died a week later from her injuries.

A friend with Paige, Ian Lewis, was also swept away in the current and died.

"It is the greatest nightmare I will ever experience," said John Merical. "I've cried more tears in the last five and a half months than I have in my entire life."

The two athletic teenagers were in water below their knees when the rip current knocked them down and pulled them out, he said.

Paige, who started swimming at age 2, had been taught if she became trapped in a current to swim parallel to the shore, advice long given to swimmers.

But now the Mericals believe their advice was wrong. They are among a growing group of community organizations and researchers working to change the message.

Swimmers should "flip, float and follow," said Jamie Racklyeft, executive director of the Great Lakes Water Safety Consortium. Flip onto their backs, float with the current and follow the path of least resistance.

Rip currents form when water piles up on the shore and rushes to the lowest point to return to the sea. The water finds an existing channel or carves out a channel in the sand beneath the water's

surface, perpendicular to the beach.

Many beachgoers have never heard of a rip current, said Leatherman, who's working with his son to develop videos with drones and environmentally safe dyes to help people visualize the danger. The currents can be deceptive or hard to see, even for experts.

Many swimmers aren't strong enough to swim out of a rip current, Leatherman said. Drowning can happen quickly.

"When you panic," he said, "your brain stops working."

When a swimmer starts swallowing water, it immediately attacks the air sacs in the lungs, said Smith, the University of California scientist and former lifeguard. "Your body just shuts down," he said. "You don't get the oxygen you need, especially to swimmer."

Swimmers who can flip over and float give themselves time to control their panic, breathe and make themselves more buoyant by filling their lungs with air. Once they're calm, they can get themselves to shore or wait for rescue.

## 3 sexually transmitted diseases hit new highs

NEW YORK — U.S. infections from three sexually transmitted diseases have risen for the fifth consecutive year.

More than 1.7 million cases of chlamydia were reported last year. The infection rate rose 3% from 2017.

It's the most reported in a year, though the trend is mainly attributed to increased testing.

About 580,000 gonorrhea cases were reported. That's the highest number since 1991. The rate rose 5%. Scientists worry antibiotic resistance may be a factor.

And the syphilis rate rose 15%. About 35,000 cases of the most contagious forms of the disease were reported — also the most since 1991.

## California bans tiny plastic bottles at hotels

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Hotels in the nation's most populous state will have to stop giving guests small plastic shampoo bottles under a new law set to take effect starting in 2023.

Gov. Gavin Newsom announced Wednesday he had signed a law banning hotels from giving guests plastic bottles filled with shampoo, conditioner or soap.

It takes effect in 2023 for hotels with more than 50 rooms and 2024 for hotels with less than 50 rooms.

Violators could be fined \$500 for a first offense and \$2,000 for subsequent violations.

The law follows similar actions by some of the world's largest hotel chains. Marriott International has said it plans to stop using small plastic bottles in its hotel rooms by December 2020. IHG, which owns Holiday Inn, Kimpton and other brands, said it will eliminate about 200 million small bottles by 2021.

## Astronauts venture on week's 2nd spacewalk

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Space station astronauts ventured out Friday on their second spacewalk this week to swap more batteries.

As Andrew Morgan and Christina Koch emerged from the International Space Station, NASA announced the death of the world's first spacewalker, Russian cosmonaut Alexei Leonov at age 85.

His 12-minute spacewalk on March 18, 1965, preceded the first U.S. spacewalk by Ed White by less than three months. "A tribute to Leonov as today is a spacewalk," Mission Control in Houston reported.

Leonov was the Russian commander of the Apollo-Soyuz joint space mission in 1975.

Morgan and Koch swiftly continued their work to replace decade-old batteries in the station's solar power network with new and improved lithium-ion versions.

It's the second of five spacewalks planned this month to install six new batteries that arrived via a Japanese supply ship two weeks ago.

From The Associated Press

NATION

# Empire State Building shows off \$165M view

By VERENA DOBNIK  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The observatory atop the Empire State Building has a dizzying new look with floor-to-ceiling, 360-degree windows 102 floors above New York City.

The remodeled observatory opened to the public on Saturday. It was unveiled to the media on Thursday.

More than 4 million annual visitors to the 1931 Art Deco skyscraper — about 60% from abroad — will be offered an unobstructed view of the city and far beyond through panoramic floor-to-ceiling sheets of glass. They replace old windows that were half the size.

For a nocturnal view of New York, visitors have until 1:15 a.m. to take a new, high-speed, translucent elevator to the 102nd floor. Now visible from the interior on the way up are the building's tower lights, whose colors change daily to celebrate holidays or people.

On the way up to the high new perch are an additional 10,000 square feet of fresh exhibits, including a replica of the moving hand of King Kong, the monster gorilla in the 1933 film that climbs the building, plunging to its death amid an attack by Helldiver military planes.

Also on display are photos of actors in movies shot there.

The \$58 cost to get to the observatory at 1,250 feet above Fifth Avenue has not changed. But now, visitors are promised shorter lines that have often stretched out onto Fifth Avenue, spilling into an elbow-to-elbow lobby crowd before even getting into an elevator.

The entrance to the observatories has been switched to the side of the building on West 34th



PHOTOS BY RICHARD DREW/AP

People look at the south view in the 102nd floor Observatory of the Empire State Building, in New York, on Thursday.

Street, where added security stations help move the crowd along. Tickets may be purchased at electronic kiosks installed only last year, in addition to online purchases.

The building also has remodeled its famous open-air observatory on the 86th floor, which still requires a \$38 ticket. Walls were opened between the interior space and the open-air terrace so city views emerge immediately after exiting the elevators.

The four-year project cost \$165 million and was financed by Em-

pire State Realty Trust Inc.

Remodeling was a daunting task, said project manager Robert Krizman.

Workers mounted metal baskets suspended outside the 103rd floor, wearing harnesses attached to the building. From there, they removed defunct broadcast antennas weighing 200 pounds each, jutting out from the top and bottom of the old windows.

Their workstation was an aluminum and wood coon ringing the 102nd floor for months while the old walls were demolished.



Visitors to the Empire State Building take a photo featuring an interactive King Kong exhibit in New York on Thursday.

## You're gonna need a bigger boat? UMaine has printer for that

By DAVID SHARP  
Associated Press

The world's largest 3D printer has created the world's largest 3D-printed boat. And the University of Maine demonstrated Thursday that it's seaworthy.

The university unveiled the 25-foot, 5,000-pound boat that was printed at the university's Advanced Structures & Composites Center. It's one example of how the massive printer can create larger prototypes to assist companies in product development, said Hahb Dagher, founding director of the composites center.

"This new printer is going to allow us to innovate so much faster by having prototypes made faster than in the past," Dagher said.

U.S. Sen. Susan Collins christened the boat by smashing a bottle of champagne on its bow at the event in Orono. Later, she and U.S. Sen. Angus King climbed aboard for a demonstration in the university's W2 Wave-Wind basin "ocean simulator," which looks like a giant indoor swimming pool.



RON LISNET, UNIVERSITY OF MAINE/AP

**A 25-foot, 5,000-pound patrol boat, center, that was produced using a large polymer 3D printer, behind left, rests on a trailer on University of Maine's campus, in Orono, Maine on Wednesday.**

The boat is named 3Dirigo, a play on Maine's motto, "Dirigo," which is Latin for "I lead."

The printer, also unveiled, is currently 70 feet long and will grow to 100 feet with an extension, Dagher said. The university and the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in

Tennessee are collaborating on the printer project.

"This is a big deal. This is probably the biggest day for this university since Stephen King matriculated in 1965," King joked, referencing the best-selling author who graduated from the school.

The 3D printer, which can gobble up 500 pounds of plastic polymer pellets per hour, is already proving useful as demonstrated by the patrol boat.

But the university hopes to make it better.

A \$20 million research collaboration with the Oak Ridge lab will focus on using bio-based thermoplastics reinforced by cellulose-based materials to create a 3D printable material that's strong, durable and recyclable, Dagher said. If it works according to plan, the printer will be able to quickly produce items like molds for boats or concrete casks that could be recycled afterward, he said.

The composites center also received \$500,000 from the Maine Technology Institute to help Maine boat builders ex-

pose how large-scale 3D printing can provide the industry with a competitive advantage.

The printer itself cost \$2.5 million, with additional funding going toward installation, commissioning and material testing. Most of the funding will be provided by the U.S. Army.

Joining Collins, King and U.S. Rep. Jared Golden at the reveal event were more than 250 industry, military and government representatives.

In addition to the boat, the university used the printer to create a mold for a bridge girder and a communication shelter for the Army.

As for the boat, it was the first thing printed by the university, and it was created in one solid piece during a nonstop printing over 72 hours. It cost about \$40,000 to produce.

Guinness World Records confirmed it's the world's largest 3D-printed boat, the largest 3D-printed object and largest prototype polymer 3D printer, the university said.

NATION



SUNDAY ALAMBA/AP

Hunters gather during a meeting in Yolo, Nigeria, in 2014. Thousands of Nigerian hunters are preparing an offensive against the Boko Haram extremists who have ravaged the northeast for a decade.

# Nigerian hunters prepare for offensive against Boko Haram

By HARUNA UMAR  
Associated Press

MAIDUGURI, Nigeria — Thousands of Nigerian hunters, armed with charmed amulets and intimate knowledge of harsh terrain, are preparing an offensive against the Boko Haram extremists who have ravaged the northeast for a decade, calling it “high time” they help soldiers end the deadly insurgency.

Nigeria’s government discouraged a similar offensive five years ago, calling it a suicide mission. This time it has the backing of the governor of Borno state, which has suffered the worst of the Boko Haram attacks.

It is a sign that Nigerian authorities, who have repeatedly claimed the defeat of Boko Haram, might be running out of options against the Islamic extremists and a recent offshoot that has pledged allegiance to Islamic State.

Borno state’s new Gov. Babagana Zulum, who inherited the conflict after winning election earlier this year, said he is tired of applying conventional strategies against an extremist group that has killed and abducted tens of thousands of people and displaced millions. The unrest has created a vast humanitarian crisis.

The governor recently approved the sourcing of at least 10,000 hunters to help end the fighting.

While Nigeria’s military would not comment, government spokesman Isa Gusau confirmed that the governor has decided to “aggressively explore every lawful means necessary in trying to put an end to the insurgency” after consultations with key stakeholders including elders and traditional rulers.

“We need all the prayers we can get, given the task ahead,” Gusau said.

The hunters are separate from the civilian self-defense forces

**“We don’t fear guns but fear only God. When we roar in the jungle even the lions fear because our fathers have tapped the secret of the forests, so Boko Haram will have no hiding place.”**

**Auwal Unar**

Nigerian hunter on tracking down Boko Haram extremists

that have sprung up in northeastern Nigeria to combat the Boko Haram insurgency.

Usually inheriting their vocation, the hunters are seen as the only group with intimate knowledge of the forests and other terrain in the vast region near Lake Chad.

An Associated Press reporter this week visited the camp where about 2,000 hunters have been waiting ahead of their march into the Sambisa forest and other Boko Haram hideouts.

More than 5,000 are being mobilized from Nigeria and regional countries including Burkina Faso, Niger and Chad, said one leader of the hunters, Baba Maigiwa.

“The majority of our men have returned to their various states and communities to go and bid their families farewell” but are on their way back to the Borno capital, Maiduguri, said another leader, Abdulkareem Umar.

“We are here because the governor is passionate about ending this madness called Boko Haram,” he said.

“I remember about five years ago when we, on our own, converged here in Maiduguri with the intention of storming Sambisa forest to confront Boko Haram, but we did not get the backing of the government and the military. As law-abiding citizens, we had to withdraw. But as this is happening now, it means it is time.”

He said the hunters had received 10 vehicles from the state

government to help in transport but said they need 30 more, along with weapons.

“We have also made it clear to the authorities that the difference between the soldiers and the hunters is the military training and our knowledge of the jungle,” he said. “But what unites us both is our arms. So we need arms and ammunition, just like the soldiers.”

He said the hunters are being fed by the Borno state government as they wait for the offensive.

“We are so happy with the move the state governor is making by recognizing the contributions that the hunters can bring into the counterinsurgency war,” said another hunters’ chief, Maigana Maidurma. “We are ready to lay down our lives if that is what it would take to bring peace to our dear land.”

A younger hunter, 32-year-old Auwal Unar, called the upcoming offensive “a war to safeguard our future and the safety of our women and children.”

He said the hunters believe in the potency of the charms they will carry into battle.

“We don’t fear guns but fear only God,” he said. “When we roar in the jungle even the lions fear because our fathers have tapped the secret of the forests, so Boko Haram will have no hiding place. They will have no choice than to surrender, or they die if they dare stand in our way.”

# Ethiopia PM Abiy is awarded 2019 Nobel Peace Prize

By CARA ANNA,  
ELIAS MESERET  
AND GEIR MOULSON  
Associated Press

OSLO, Norway — Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 2019 in recognition of his efforts to end his country’s two-decade border conflict with Eritrea.

The Norwegian Nobel Institute on Friday also praised the “important reforms” that Abiy, Ethiopia’s leader since April 2018, has launched at home. The prize comes as Abiy faces pressure to uphold the sweeping freedoms he introduced, and critics warn that his ability to deal with rising domestic unrest may be slipping.

The Nobel committee said some people may consider it too early to give him the prize, but “it is now that Abiy Ahmed’s efforts need recognition and deserve encouragement.”

The award reflects the committee’s taste for trying to encourage works in progress.

“We are proud as a nation!!!” Abiy’s office said in a tweet.

Nobel Institute director Olav Njoeselstad, said he had been in touch by phone with Abiy, who “showed great humility and was overwhelmed.”

Abiy, 43, took office after widespread protests pressured the longtime ruling coalition and hurt one of the world’s fastest growing economies. Africa’s youngest leader quickly announced dramatic reforms and “Abiymania” began.

On talking office, Abiy surprised people by fully accepting a peace deal ending a 20-year border war between the two East African na-

tions that saw tens of thousands of people killed. Ethiopia and Eritrea had not had diplomatic ties since the war began in 1998, with Abiy himself once fighting in a town that remained contested at the time of his announcement last year.

Within weeks, the visibly moved Eritrean president, Isaias Afwerki, visited Addis Ababa and communications and transport links were restored.

For the first time in two decades, long-divided families made tearful reunions.

The improving relations led to the lifting of United Nations sanctions on Eritrea, one of the world’s most reclusive nations. But Ethiopia’s reforms do not appear to have inspired any in Eritrea, which has since closed border posts with its neighbor.

The Nobel committee also pointed to Abiy’s other efforts toward reconciliation in the region — between Eritrea and Djibouti, between Kenya and Somalia, and in Sudan.

The Nobel committee acknowledged that “peace does not arise from the actions of one party alone.”

It said that when Abiy “reached out his hand, President Afwerki grasped it, and helped to formalize the peace process between the two countries.”

It added that it “hopes the peace agreement will help to bring about positive change for the entire populations of Ethiopia and Eritrea.”

There was no immediate comment on the award from Eritrea, which under its longtime ruler remains one of the world’s most closed-off nations.



MULLUGETA AVENE/AFP

Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki, left, and Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed hold hands as they wave at the crowds in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in July 2018. The 2019 Nobel Peace Prize was given to Abiy on Friday for his efforts in ending the war with Eritrea.

## WORLD

# UK, Irish leaders see Brexit path as hope wanes

By JILL LAWLESS  
Associated Press

LONDON — The leaders of Britain and Ireland said they spotted a “pathway” to an elusive Brexit deal Thursday, as hopes for a breakthrough dimmed just three weeks before the U.K.’s deadline to leave the European Union.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Irish leader Leo Varadkar provided a status update on the issue after a private lunch meeting in northwest England.

Both continue to believe that a deal is in everybody’s interest,” they said in a joint statement. “They agreed that they could see a pathway to a possible deal.”

Britain is due to leave the 28-nation bloc on Oct. 31, and attempts to find a deal have foundered over plans for the border between EU member Ireland and the U.K.’s Northern Ireland.

The currently all-but-invisible border underpins both the regional economy and Northern Ireland’s peace process.

There was little of substance in Varadkar and Johnson’s statement indicating a breakthrough or whether the “pathway” was near or far off.

The two agreed to “reflect” further on their discussions, which concentrated on the challenges of customs and consent. They also agreed to keep talking.

Under a U.K. proposal, there would have to be customs checks on some goods, though not on the border itself. The EU says any cus-

tom checks are unacceptable. In recent days, Britain and the EU have traded bad-tempered barbs about who is responsible for the deadlock in talks.

After Johnson’s Downing Street office claimed EU intransigence had made it “essentially impossible” for the U.K. to leave with a deal, European Commission President Donald Tusk warned against playing a “stupid blame game.”

Varadkar and other EU leaders say Johnson, who took office in July, has repudiated the withdrawal agreement made with the bloc by his predecessor, Theresa May. That deal was rejected three times by Britain’s Parliament, largely because of lawmakers’ opposition to provisions to ensure an open Irish border.

Johnson insists the U.K. will leave the U.K. on Oct. 31, with or without a divorce deal.

However, many members of Britain’s Parliament are determined to prevent a no-deal Brexit, which economists say would plunge the U.K. economy into recession. Last month, they passed a law requiring the government to ask the EU for a delay if no divorce deal has been agreed to by Oct. 19 — the day after a key summit of EU leaders in Brussels.

Johnson says he won’t delay Brexit past Oct. 31 — but also will obey the law. It’s unclear how the two statements can be reconciled.

Parliament is expected to hold a rare Saturday sitting on Oct. 19 as lawmakers grapple with what to do next.

## Arrested Japanese stalker used pupil image reflections

Associated Press

TOKYO — A man arrested on suspicion of stalking a female pop idol used the reflections of her pupils in photos she shared on social media and Google Street View to find where she lived.

Tokyo police declined comment on the specifics of the investigation but confirmed Friday that Hibiki Sato, 26, was arrested Sept. 17 on suspicion of indecent behavior in connection with stalking and causing injuries to the 20-year-old woman.

The police official, who spoke on condition of anonymity as is often policy at Japanese bureaucracies, said the case was related to the reports about a stalker and pupil images. Police described Sato as an “avid fan.”

Public broadcaster NHK and other Japanese media reported this week that details in the woman’s selfies were used to identify the train station she frequented. They said Sato looked at other images she shared, such as her apartment, to figure out where she lived.

Police say he hurt her and committed indecent acts, such as groping her after accosting her from behind and knocking her down.

Japan has many young female performance groups. Tokyo Shimbun, a metropolitan daily, which reported on the stalking case, warned readers even casual selfies may show surrounding buildings that will allow people to identify the location of the photos.



THON GORROLD/Stars and Stripes

Airman 1st Class Sabastian Yor, of Houston, helps fill sandbags in preparation for a major typhoon that was expected to impact Yokota Air Base, Japan, on Friday.

## Typhoon may bring 31 inches of rain, strong winds to Tokyo

By MARI YAMAUCHI  
Associated Press

TOKYO — A powerful typhoon is forecast to bring up to 31 inches of rain and damaging winds to the Tokyo area and Japan’s Pacific coast this weekend, and the government is warning residents to stockpile necessities and leave high-risk places before it’s too dangerous.

Rugby World Cup matches and other events were canceled on Saturday, and flights and train services were halted. In the town of Kihō, southwest of Tokyo, shops were boarded up, boats were anchored and authorities checked coastal levees. Residents of Tokyo were buying batteries, bottled water, instant noodles and other food.

Meteorological Agency official Yasushi Kajihara said Typhoon Hagibis resembled a typhoon that hit the Tokyo region in 1958 with heavy rains and left a half-million houses flooded. More than 1,200 people died in that storm.

“In order to protect your own life and your loved ones, please try to start evacuating early before it gets dark and the storm becomes powerful,” Kajihara said at a news conference Friday.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s Cabinet held a disaster management meeting late Friday, vowing to do its utmost to protect people’s lives. He said 17,000 police and military troops are ready if needed for rescue operations.

The typhoon could cause power outages, damage to infrastructure and significantly affect people’s lives,” Abe said.

Economy Minister Isshu Sugawara urged hospitals and other public facilities to check their backup power supplies.

Hagibis, which means speed in Filipino, was advancing north-northwestward with winds of 110 mph, gusting to 156 mph on Friday afternoon, the weather



FLYER FRASER/U.S. Navy

Petty Officer 2nd Class Christie Weiler, a dockmaster at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, watches a harbor tug as it moves a barracks barge into dry dock ahead of a typhoon on Thursday.

fense Ministry cut a three-day annual navy review to a single day on Monday.

All Nippon Airways grounded all of its domestic flights scheduled on Saturday at Tokyo’s Haneda and Narita international airports, while Japan Airlines canceled all but its early morning flights at Tokyo airports.

Central Japan Railway Co. said it will cancel all bullet train service between Tokyo and Osaka except for several early Saturday trains connecting Nagoya and Osaka.

The typhoon is spreading fear especially in Chiba, near Tokyo, which was hit by Typhoon Faxai last month and where homes still are damaged. That typhoon knocked down about 2,000 power poles, at one point leaving more than 900,000 homes without power, triggering concerns about the country’s aging infrastructure system built decades ago.

Chiba city distributed sandbags to shield against flooding and urged residents to make sure they have enough food and water and that their phones are charged.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

# Experts: Newborns at risk of identity theft

By BEV O'SHEA  
NerdWallet

Imagine discovering that your newborn's brand-new Social Security number has already been used to construct what Eva Velasquez, president and CEO of the Identity Theft Resource Center, calls a "Frankenstein monster of identity."

Parents may discover their newborn's tarnished Social Security number when they try to use it to file taxes, apply for government benefits or attempt to freeze the baby's credit. Suddenly, an application or tax form is kicked back.

"And the parents go, 'What are you talking about?' They don't even know what this means," said Velasquez, whose nonprofit helps victims of identity theft. "And ... through no fault of their own, they're left holding the bag and they are the ones that are now responsible for cleaning up that mess."

■ **An identity theft victim at birth?** The rise in synthetic identity theft — where criminals piece together a fake consumer — is an unintended consequence of Social Security number "randomization," which was initiated in 2011 to expand the pool of available numbers, she said.

Old Social Security numbers had clues to geography and birth dates in the digits. Randomizing the numbers made it harder for scammers to guess them — but also made it harder for creditors to spot the bogus use of an Social Security number on an application.

Before randomization, criminals typically purchased minors' Social Security numbers on the black market or tracked down the numbers of dead children. But



SETH WENIG/AP

**Newborns rest in the nursery of Aishes Chayil, a postpartum recovery center, in Kiryas Joel, N.Y. Some parents are discovering that the Social Security number assigned to their newborn is being used by criminals to commit fraud.**

now, sometimes the number "is just completely made up," Velasquez said.

Fraud-detection measures used previously have become ineffective because it's no longer possible to pair a Social Security number with a location or approximate age.

Criminals often start with a not-yet-issued Social Security number to create a fake identity. If it works, the number becomes attached to a credit file for a consumer who doesn't exist.

■ **How the number gets in the credit system:** "You can create a credit file with almost nothing," said Adam Levin, chairman and founder of CyberScout, a company offering identity theft education and resolution services. When a credit card application

with a previously unused Social Security number arrives, a new credit file is started based on the information in that application.

The thief often starts small, say, with a card marketed to credit newbies, then builds on that to get more accounts with bigger credit limits. Then, they suddenly max out all the accounts — a "bust-out" scheme — and walk away, leaving the accounts to go to collections and never to be paid. The child's credit reputation is left in tatters, but that's often not discovered until the child is old enough to apply for credit, by seeking a college loan, for example.

Velasquez says the solution lies in creating a process where financial institutions and other credit grantors can verify an applicant's name and number with the Social

Security Administration for identity confirmation. That's in the works, she said.

■ **It's essential to freeze credit:** In the meantime, the best protection is to freeze kids' credit. While it's possible parents will discover that a child's Social Security number has already been used to build a synthetic identity, chances are it hasn't. (If it has, the sooner you clean up the mess, the better.)

Freezing a child's credit can prevent their Social Security number from being used to open bogus credit accounts. Both Levin and Velasquez say they "absolutely" recommend freezing a newborn's credit.

The mechanics are relatively simple. Parents will need to make and send copies of documents, including birth certificates, Social Security cards and government-issued identification, to each of the three major credit reporting bureaus.

Go online to Equifax and Experian to print out request forms to complete and mail in with the required copies of documents. The mailing address is on each form. TransUnion doesn't have an online form; instead, to request a freeze, write a letter and

send document copies to TransUnion, P.O. Box 380, Woodlyn, Pa. 19094.

Each credit bureau will send confirmation of the freeze, as well as a personal identification number.

The PINs will be needed to unfreeze the credit file, so it's essential to keep that information and store it in a secure place.

"Even if it is a little difficult, this is what parents should be doing," Levin said about freezing kids' credit.

**EXCHANGE RATES**

Military rates	
Euro costs (Oct. 14)	\$1.1344
Dollar buys (Oct. 14)	€0.8815
British pound (Oct. 14)	\$1.30
Japanese yen (Oct. 14)	¥105.00
South Korean won (Oct. 14)	₩1,150.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.2684
Canada (Dollar)	1.3198
China (Yuan)	7.0957
Denmark (Krone)	6.7568
Egypt (Pound)	15.2798
Euro	\$1.1054/0.9046
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8428
Hungary (Forint)	299.58
Israel (Shekel)	3.5008
Japan (Yen)	108.47
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3036
Norway (Krone)	0.9773
Philippines (Peso)	51.48
Poland (Zloty)	3.89
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7507
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3739
South Korea (Won)	1182.10
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9974
Thailand (Baht)	30.44
Turkey (New Lira)	5.8629

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 noncheck currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), consult 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**

Oct. 10, 2019	
Dow Jones Industrials	150.66
	26,496.67
Nasdaq composite	47.04
	7,950.78
Standard & Poor's 500	18.73
	2,938.13
Russell 2000	5.90
	1,485.36

**INTEREST RATES**

Prime rate	5.00
Discount rate	2.50
Federal funds market rate	2.82
3-month bill	1.64
30-year bond	2.15

**WEATHER OUTLOOK**

**SATURDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST**



**SATURDAY IN EUROPE**



**SUNDAY IN THE PACIFIC**



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

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## City plants flags in abandoned dog poop

**MO** SPRINGFIELD — Officials in a south-west Missouri city are planting small flags in piles of abandoned dog poop as part of a campaign to get residents to clean up after their pets downtown.

The Police Department in Springfield posted photos of the flags in use on its Facebook page Wednesday.

The flags contain messages such as, "Is this your turd?" "Cuz that's absurd!" and "This is a nudge to pick up the fudge."

The campaign started this week and the department noted on Facebook that leaving behind a pet's mess in many cases violates a city ordinance.

## Official: Children using lighter start motel fire

**TX** SPRING — Fire investigators said two young children who were left alone in a suburban Houston motel room were playing with a lighter that caused a three-alarm fire, resulting in minor injuries to seven people.

Rachel Moreno, spokeswoman for the Harris County Fire Marshal's Office, said Thursday that the two children, siblings who are 3 and 6 years old, were among the seven transported for evaluation.

Moreno said witnesses reported they saw the children holding a lighter while running from a motel Wednesday at the Motel 6 North just off Interstate 45 about 20 miles north of Houston.

Moreno said their mother had hired a baby sitter to watch the children but the sitter left the hotel room for a time.

## Victim of dog attack: Don't blame dogs

**CT** PLYMOUTH — A Connecticut woman recovering in the hospital after being attacked by four of her own large French mastiffs said she doesn't blame the dogs.

Patricia Collins, 45, told the (Waterbury) Republican-American in a phone interview Wednesday from her room at Yale New Haven Hospital she doesn't know what triggered the attack but reiterated that it wasn't the dogs' fault. She was scheduled for surgery Thursday to treat injuries to her arm and abdomen.

The Plymouth woman was attacked by four of her six French mastiffs on Monday afternoon.

Officers responding to a 911 call found her on the rear patio of a neighbor's house. Police shot and killed three of the dogs. The fourth was injured and taken to a veterinary hospital, but was eventually euthanized.

## Man accused of forcing alligator to drink beer

**FL** PALM CITY — Authorities said they've arrested a Florida man who provoked a small alligator into biting his arm and poured beer into the animal's mouth.

News outlets report Timothy



JOHN ROARK, THE IDAHO (IDAHO FALLS) POST-REGISTER/AP

## Flurries and flight

Canada Geese take flight off the Snake River in Idaho Falls, Idaho, on Wednesday. The geese typically hunker down throughout winter but can migrate as far south as Mexico. The v-pattens allows the birds to fly more efficiently, according to the Library of Congress' website.

Kepke, 27, and Noah Osborne, 22, were charged last week with unlawfully taking an alligator.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission officers began investigating in August following a complaint of Osborne catching the alligator in Palm City and handing it to Kepke.

Kepke appears in a video to let the reptile bite his forearm. The video also shows Kepke feeding the alligator beer as it struggles.

When officers interviewed Kepke last month, he reportedly acknowledged that he was in the video and said the gator was alive when they released it.

## Hotel clerk grabs gun after thief sets it down

**KY** PADUCAH — A Kentucky hotel clerk managed to force a thief out of her workplace by grabbing a gun he set down on the check-in counter while stuffing cash into a bag.

Security video obtained by news outlets shows an armed man with his face covered, demanding money from an employee at a Country Inn and Suites on Monday.

In the video, she can be seen handing over bills as the suspect sets his gun down to collect them. That's when the clerk grabs the gun and turns it on him.

The man tries hopping over the counter to reclaim the weapon but the employee continues pointing it at him until he flees into a waiting car.

Paducah police are investigat-

## THE CENSUS

**7** The total number of confirmed cases of mumps at a South Carolina college after officials confirmed two more cases. News outlets report the new cases at the College of Charleston were confirmed as of Wednesday. The school is in the process of notifying people close to the sickened. It's unclear if the infected people include students or staff.

ing and have asked for the public's help identifying the suspect.

## School evacuated over smoldering laptop

**NC** LEWISVILLE — Officials said an overheated and smoldering Chromebook caused about 600 children to be evacuated from a school, whose district is now recalling about \$4.2 million dollars' worth of district-issued laptops.

Winston-Salem Forsyth County Schools' chief technology officer, Kevin Sherrill, told reporters at a Wednesday news conference that the children were evacuated that morning after the 2015 laptop began to smoke.

District spokesman Brent Campbell said a Lewisville Elementary third grader reported the laptop was getting hot, and it then started to smoke. He said the classroom and building were evacuated, and the laptop was sprayed with a fire extinguisher.

Sherrill said the laptop likely suffered a battery-related issue. The district is now recalling all 20,000 of its 2015 Chromebooks, which Sherrill said are each valued at about \$210.

## Parking lot at Mormon church covered in beer

**UT** SALT LAKE CITY — Cans of beer have filled the parking lot of a church of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in a Salt Lake City suburb after a semi-trailer crashed that was carrying cases of brew banned by the faith.

Sandy Police Sgt. Jason Nielsen said the semitrailer veered and fell from a road and into the church's parking lot after it was hit by a pickup truck that ran a red light on Thursday. Beer cans were strewn across the empty church parking lot.

One of the faith's key rules is a ban on members drinking alcohol.

## Officials say elk hunt is likely in 2020

**MO** SPRINGFIELD — Missouri Department of Conservation officials said the state's elk herd is on track to be large enough in 2020 for the first hunt in more than a century.

The Springfield News-Leader reported that department officials outlined how a hunt will work if

the rules get final approval by the conservation commission.

Five to ten permits are likely to be available and only Missouri residents will be eligible, officials said during a Wednesday webcast.

Department elk specialist Aaron Hildreth said the elk that were reintroduced to Missouri in 2011 now number about 175 and the herd is expected to be close to 200 animals by fall 2020.

The department hopes to grow the herd to 400 to 500 elk eventually and more hunting permits will likely become available in future years.

## New office promotes outdoor industry

**NH** CONCORD — New Hampshire is creating a state office dedicated to outdoor recreation in hopes of expanding that industry and using it to attract young workers to other sectors.

The budget recently signed by Republican Gov. Chris Sununu included the creation of the Office of Outdoor Recreation Industry Development within the Department of Business and Economic Affairs. Commissioner Taylor Caswell said the new office builds upon ongoing efforts to leverage economic development with tourism marketing and will promote New Hampshire as the East Coast state that best combines a vibrant economy with outdoor lifestyles.

From wire reports

TRAVEL



ILLUSTRATION BY NOGA AMI-RAV/Stars and Stripes

# UNTESTED WATERS

## Tips on how to stay afloat financially, connected socially on your 1st cruise

By NEVIN MARTELL  
Special to The Washington Post

**T**here's traditional travel and then there's cruising — and they require decidedly different approaches. After spending years thumbing my nose at cruises, I recently went on my inaugural voyage, a weeklong trip with Viking from Norway to the Netherlands. I returned to terra firma with my opinions completely realigned and the realization that a lifetime of globe-trotting had not totally prepared me to maximize my cruising experience while minimizing the costs. I made some pricey mistakes and squandered some good opportunities.

Luckily, getting the most out of your cruise is predominantly about what you do before you set foot on the ship. This way, you can spend your vacation, well, vacationing — not worrying about how much you're spending or what you're doing next.

When booking your nautical getaway, one of the biggest expenses is accommodations. Interior cabins cost less and are a great way to save money — if you don't plan to spend much time in your room. That being said, having a balcony is pretty cush and, I believe, worth the expenditure.



You must address how you'll stay connected at sea, or your heavenly holiday will be followed by a hellish bill.

Cruise operators occasionally offer free Wi-Fi, but they generally charge for data usage. These packages can be pricey and may not be as generous as you anticipate. You can quickly burn through your allotted plan once you start uploading photos and videos to social media or streaming Netflix movies. Then you'll have the choice of either ponying up for more data or going dark for the rest of the trip. You can also remain connected through your mobile carrier. Though carriers may offer an international plan, they usually do not cover usage at sea. Some carriers do offer cruise-specific packages, but these can be extremely expensive and limited in scope. Read all the fine print before you buy one.



Check the weather in every port of call before you go.

Many cruise lines share this information online, but even those listings don't usually include the weather at sea between destinations. Pack accordingly and plan for contingencies, like rain or snow, depending on where in the world you're traveling. If you're cruising for a week or longer, it's worth figuring out the laundry situation. Some cruise lines offer free DIY laundry rooms, while others charge for such usage. Additionally, dry cleaning and full-service laundry are often available — for a price.



Speaking of clothing, take note of the ship's dress code.

Some establishments or events may require certain attire, like formalwear at a high-end restaurant. On the flip side, swimsuits

may only be appropriate in the pool area while being banned elsewhere on the ship. Plot out your wardrobe in advance, so you don't get side-eye for wearing the wrong outfit in the wrong place. While you're packing, double-check that you have adequate supplies of your prescriptions (and bring a motion sickness medicine, such as Bonine or Dramamine). Though the ship will have a doctor on board, there won't be a fully stocked pharmacy. Once you get on shore, obtaining a refill can be a difficult, time-consuming and expensive process.



Don't forget to bring a bunch of \$1 bills for tips, but read your receipts before laying down any extra cash, as many cruise lines build gratuities into their charges.



No matter where you're going, pack your passport. Some cruises departing and returning to the same U.S. port only require you to have a driver's license. However, if you have to take an emergency flight home, you will need a passport.



Take a moment to check out the onboard dining options. Some require no reservations, but some restaurants require a reservation and may even cost extra. Book tables before departure, rather than when you board, so you can score your preferred dining times.



While you're browsing the ship's profile online, glance at the entertainment and amenities. Some will be included in the ticket price, while others incur a supplemental fee. Depending on the cruise line, ship and itinerary, these will vary.

Usually, there is a lot to do at no extra cost — the ship I was on had a free spa and planetarium shows — but make sure to sign up or arrive early to ensure you get a seat. If you have the urge to splurge, go ahead and book a massage or private yoga class. Just remember to select a time slot when you'll be at sea, so you don't eat into your limited shore time.

Speaking of getting off the ship, the cruise line may offer some gratis excursions, but most cost extra. Deciding whether to go on them is a matter of personal preference and your budget. These tours make transportation to and entry into attractions a simple, smooth process, which can be appealing for travelers who don't want to endure the hassle of navigating a new environment. Warning: They can be pricey. If you decide to go, on any, book them well in advance; the popular ones sell out quickly.

For the most part, however, I'm not a fan of tightly controlled group outings. I'd rather explore on my own. When flying solo, do your research in advance to determine what you want to see, do and eat — and how you're going to get to each stop on your itinerary. Whenever possible, I walk. It's great exercise and you see the destination on a more granular level, which often leads to exciting discoveries that would never happen otherwise.

Bring a daypack with you to easily carry your reusable bottle (fill it with potable water before disembarking), camera and any souvenirs you pick up.

One last piece of advice: Don't forget you're at sea. Get to the upper decks when possible, so you can see the sunset, go stargazing or simply watch the wake as it unravels behind the ship. After all, you're not on a traditional trip. You're on a cruise.

## MOVIES

# Haves and have-nots

From 'Joker' to 'Hustlers' to 'Parasite,' filmmakers study economic disparity

By JOSH ROTTENBERG  
Los Angeles Times

**O**n the face of it, the gritty comic-book blockbuster "Joker," the hit female-led crime drama "Hustlers," the darkly comic Korean-language thriller "Parasite" and the upcoming Agatha Christie-style whodunit "Knives Out" would appear to have little in common beyond the fact that they're all, well, movies.

Scratch beneath the surface of genre, though, and you'll find that these films share a common preoccupation. In different ways, each tackles issues of economic disparity, exploring the gulf between society's haves and have-nots that has widened dramatically since the 2008 financial crisis. While steering clear of overt partisan politics, their depiction of individuals, families and entire societies buffeted and warped by the impacts of wealth inequality wouldn't be out of place in a stump speech on the 2020 presidential campaign trail.

Generally speaking, of course, Hollywood entertainment is designed to provide audiences with a temporary vacation from the real world with its endless parade of gloomy headlines. But as the gap between the rich and poor has grown ever wider — hitting a record in the U.S. in 2018, according to data released last month by the Census Bureau — it should come as no surprise to see filmmakers taking it on.

"Films always respond to the world that they are born out of," said writer-director Rian Johnson, whose "Knives Out," in theaters Nov. 27, is a murder mystery centered on a dysfunctional moneyed family and their decidedly less-well-off staff. "It's unavoidable right now that we are in a world dealing with increased income disparity and you can feel it. At the same time, the tub of boiling water of the public discourse has been cranked up to 11. It's no longer something that we all are in the privileged state of being able to dip in and out of. It's very much in the ocean that we're all swimming in."



Lionsgate

Daniel Craig stars in "Knives Out," a murder mystery about a nutty rich family and a less well-off staff.



NEON/UP

In "Parasite," an impoverished family schemes its way into the employment of a rich one, with surprising results.



STX/Films

Constance Wu and Jennifer Lopez are strippers who drug wealthy men and run up their credit cards in "Hustlers."



Warner Bros. Pictures

In "Joker," starring Joaquin Phoenix, the wealth gap becomes a breeding ground for chaos and violence.

And audiences seem to be responding. Released in March, Jordan Peele's horror film "Us," a pointed commentary on class division in which a family is terrorized by their doppelgängers, earned \$255 million worldwide, making it the highest-grossing nonfranchise film of the year thus far. Meanwhile, on the small screen, arguably the buzziest current show, HBO's "Succession," skewers the cutthroat machinations of an ultra-affluent clan headed by a Rupert Murdoch-like media baron.

Director Bong Joon Ho's "Parasite," which just arrived in stateside theaters, an impoverished family schemes its way into the employment of a rich one with increasingly dark and surprising consequences. The genre-scrambling film, which won the Palme d'Or at this year's Cannes Film Festival, has Oscar ambitions beyond the foreign-language category, and Bong believes it will resonate with audiences well outside his native South Korea, where it has already proven a box office smash.

"The topic of the gap between rich and poor lends itself to being so universal," Bong told The Times recently at the Telluride Film Festival, where the film earned a rapturous reception. "Every country has its own structures and conflicts regarding class, but when you really delve deep into the cave of capitalism and explore the infinite darkness of it, you find a similar sort of mechanism flows throughout. We're all obsessed with class. Whenever we pass by people, whether they're rich or poor, even if we only see them for three seconds, we see what kind of clothes they're wearing, what watch they have, what phone they're using, what car they're getting out of."

In "Joker," which broke box-office records for an October release last weekend on a wave of controversy, the gap between the haves and have-nots becomes the breeding ground for chaos and violence, as the alienated, disturbed Arthur Fleck (Joaquin Phoenix) is driven to horrific acts of murder by an uncaring society. Though the film has the outward trappings of a comic-book film and is set in

the fictitious city of Gotham circa the late '70s-early '80s, its depiction of a world bitterly divided between a marginalized underclass, personified by Fleck, and a callous elite, embodied by billionaire Thomas Wayne, felt deeply topical to director Todd Phillips.

"Movies are often a reflection of where we are," said Phillips, who co-wrote the film with Scott Silver. "We could say this movie was set in 1979 or 1981 but we wrote it in 2016 and 2017, so that stuff does come through."

A female-centric answer to films like "The Wolf of Wall Street" and "Goodfellas," "Hustlers" views the issue of income inequality through the lens of gender, following a group of strippers who, struggling to make ends meet in the wake of the financial crisis, begin drugging Wall Street types who visit their club and running up their credit cards. Released last month, the film has grossed in excess of \$100 million globally, roughly five times its budget, striking a particular chord with female audiences at a time when women in America earn on average 80 cents for every dollar earned by men.

"Stories like this had been told with men at the center but never with women," said "Hustlers" producer Jessica Elbaum.

"It spoke to themes of money, power, greed, control, the American dream. But it really started with what men and women are valued for and how different that is, just exploring that and breaking it down to the simplest terms. Women are valued for their bodies and men are valued for their wallets."

Though the film, directed by Lorene Scafaria and based on a true story, aims to avoid preachiness, "Hustlers" producer Elaine Goldsmith-Thomas said its implicit message is nevertheless clear.

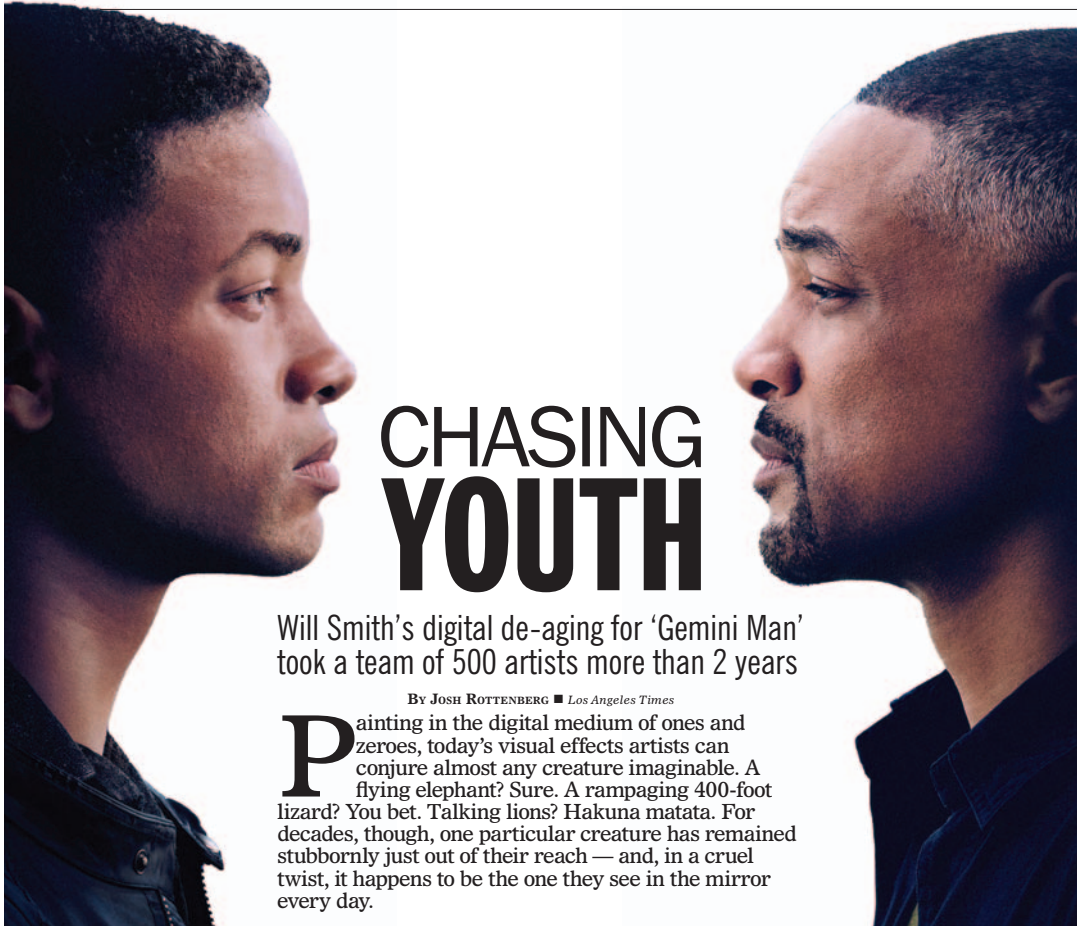
"The last line of the movie is, 'The whole country is a strip club — some people are throwing the money and some people are doing the dance,'" Goldsmith-Thomas said. "It's hard not to see it through the prism of the craziness of the reality we're living in."

**‘The topic of the gap between rich and poor lends itself to being so universal ... We're all obsessed with class. Whenever we pass by people, whether they're rich or poor ... we see what kind of clothes they're wearing, what watch they have, what phone they're using, what car they're getting out of.’**

Bong Joon Ho  
"Parasite" director



## MOVIES



# CHASING YOUTH

Will Smith's digital de-aging for 'Gemini Man' took a team of 500 artists more than 2 years

By JOSH ROTTENBERG ■ Los Angeles Times

**P**ainting in the digital medium of ones and zeroes, today's visual effects artists can conjure almost any creature imaginable. A flying elephant? Sure. A rampaging 400-foot lizard? You bet. Talking lions? *Hakuna matata*. For decades, though, one particular creature has remained stubbornly just out of their reach — and, in a cruel twist, it happens to be the one they see in the mirror every day.

In the visual effects community, creating a completely believable, photorealistic digital human being, capable of holding its own alongside flesh-and-blood actors for an entire film, has long been considered the holy grail. Films like “The Curious Case of Benjamin Button,” “Tron: Legacy,” “Star Wars: Rogue One” and “Blade Runner 2049” have moved the industry toward that goal in recent years, with varying degrees of success. Now director Ang Lee is making the boldest — and riskiest — effort yet with the sci-fi action film “Gemini Man,” which pits the 50-year-old Will Smith, as a government hit man, against a 23-year-old version of himself.

For more than two years, Lee and some 500 visual effects artists worked virtually nonstop to try to pull off a convincing facsimile of one of the world's biggest movie stars as we haven't seen him since he burst on the scene more than 25 years ago.

“From the start, I said, ‘This will be harder than we can imagine,’” Lee said. “Every shot is going to be under scrutiny. That's really scary. I'm still scared.”

The idea for “Gemini Man,” in which aging assassin Henry is hunted by a younger clone who's able to predict his every move, had been bouncing around Hollywood since the mid-1990s, waiting for the technology to catch up with the concept. In early 2017, producer David Ellison, whose Skydance Media had acquired the project from Disney a year earlier, pitched it to Lee.

Having created a CGI Incredible Hulk for 2003's “Hulk” and a digital tiger for “Life of Pi,” the director was instantly intrigued both by the film's technological challenge and its philosophical ramifications. “How a person deals with his younger self, two characters brought up differently but with the same genes — a situation like that just forces you to examine what we're about,” said Lee, who has won the directing Oscar twice, for “Life of Pi” and “Brokeback Mountain.” “So I got down to figuring out how to do it. It was exciting.”

In recent years, visual effects artists have refined the ability to play God with the aging process in films like “Captain

Marvel,” in which Samuel L. Jackson played a more youthful Nick Fury, and the upcoming Martin Scorsese gangster epic “The Irishman,” which will feature Robert De Niro and Al Pacino playing the same characters across three decades.

But because “Gemini Man” often involved Smith playing both characters in the same scene — and because Lee intended to shoot the film in a high-frame rate format that would be less forgiving of any slight of hand — the “Gemini Man” team had to employ an entirely different approach from the typical CGI-Botox-style “de-aging.”

“The term ‘de-aging’ usually refers to shooting the actor on set using makeup and then there's a post-[production] process on top of that to smooth out wrinkles, thin the face, possibly graft in a couple of photographed skin pieces from a double,” said visual effects supervisor Bill Westenhofer, who shared an Oscar for his work on “Life of Pi.” “Whereas we are creating from whole cloth a fully digital human.”

Before production even began, Williams' team at Weta began the process of

building the clone, dubbed Junior, using for reference images and footage of young Smith from the sitcom “The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air,” which launched in 1990, and films including 1993's “Six Degrees of Separation” and 1995's “Bad Boys.” In addition to closely studying Smith's face and early performing style, they looked at research papers on the aging process to understand subtle physical changes, like how much the nose grows in adulthood.

During production, the film was essentially shot twice, once on an actual set with Smith playing Henry opposite a stand-in for Junior and then a second time on a performance-capture stage, with Smith, wearing a body suit and facial camera, now playing Junior opposite a stand-in for Henry.

Still, for all the high-tech wizardry brought to bear, the character remains firmly rooted in Smith's performance. “Will had to get all of the nuances in the difference between his 50-year-old self and his 23-year-old self,” Westenhofer said. “There wasn't a magical technical button for that part of the equation.”

**A government assassin (Will Smith) is targeted by someone he knows well — his younger self — in the action thriller “Gemini Man,” directed by Ang Lee.**

Paramount Pictures

## VIDEO GAMES

# MISFIRE

Despite being marred by numerous mechanical glitches, Ghost Recon Breakpoint offers fun cooperative gameplay



By BRIAN BOWERS  
Stars and Stripes

When the Xbox 360 and PlayStation 3 ruled the gaming world, Ubisoft's Ghost Recon franchise delivered exceptional tactical shooters built around ingenious gadgets, stealthy combat and enthralling cooperative play. Missions were intense and every action had significance.

A console generation later, the franchise is a ghost of its former self. Instead of using its earlier incarnations as a template for its latest versions, Ubisoft has turned to other games in its catalog for inspiration. As a result, Tom Clancy's Ghost Recon Breakpoint — like its immediate predecessor Wildlands — feels like a lightweight mash-up of the Division and Far Cry rather than the heir of its forerunners.

This isn't necessarily bad since both of the other series are quite solid. In fact, Breakpoint can be a lot of fun to play, especially in co-op, which can accommodate up to four players. However, it does feel like a missed opportunity to recapture the deep, intense gameplay of the earlier titles.

Breakpoint is a third-person shooter set on the fictional South Pacific archipelago of Auroa, home to a settlement of high-tech pioneers whose effort to build a better society — World 2.0 — has gone astray. You play as Nomad, a special operator whose unit has been sent to respond to the sinking of a ship. As your helicopters approach the island, a swarm of tiny drones brings them crashing down. From there, you must try to round up survivors, find allies and investigate the sinister military contractor who has co-opted World 2.0 and turned its plans for utopia into a ruth-

less police state backed by killer drones.

The game unfolds as a series of investigations. Almost everyone has an agenda, a grudge and something to hide, so expect plenty of twists and turns as you get to the bottom of the trouble on Auroa. This provides a good framework for Breakpoint's storyline.

But while the story is intriguing and relatively well developed, the game falters because of its light take on the Far Cry and Division formulas.

A typical series of missions plays out something like this. You get a request to find, rescue or attack someone. You then cross swamps, snow-capped mountains, beaches and towns to gather information. Along the way, a few gunbattles and/or stealthy infiltrations unfold before the mystery is solved and a big battle occurs. You then repeat this a few dozen times until you reach the final fight.

In most encounters, you have the option of leaving nothing but footprints or gunning down every enemy in your path. Either way, you'll probably want to use your small drone to figure out where enemies are and what they're doing. You can then gain an edge by using other items, such as mines, sensor grenades, electromagnetic pulse grenades and sync-shot drones that allow you to take out several enemies simultaneously.

Aside from the reliance on gadgets, much of this will be familiar to Far Cry fans. On the other hand, Division fans will recognize a reliance on loot and gear scores. So, in addition to gaining experience and abilities by eliminating enemies and accomplishing missions, you boost the strength of your weapons and armor by looting the bodies of your foes and opening chests scattered around the landscape. As you loot more chests, your gear score increases.

However, this mechanic doesn't play out quite like it does in The Division. In that franchise, it's absolutely essential to keep boosting your gear score because enemies even a wee bit stronger are incredibly difficult to kill. But in Breakpoint, few enemies are invulnerable and most are downright stupid. As a result, most encounters seem relatively easy aside from



Ubisoft photos

Tom Clancy's Ghost Recon Breakpoint is a military shooter set in a diverse and hostile open world called Auroa. The game is playable solo or in up to four-player co-op.

those involving the elite soldiers known as Wolves and Behemoth drones.

Breakpoint offers a mixed bag of technical pluses and minuses. It benefits from good control and gameplay mechanics and solid map design.

Making connections with friends is remarkably easy. However, the connection isn't always stable. It's not uncommon to suffer lag and even momentary stalling, which can lead to uncomfortable moments in battle.

But connection issues are only the start of technical misuses. The audio is problematic, with hitches ranging from sound effects that just don't sound right to voices that drop off mid-sentence. Graphics are lackluster and visual glitches are common. The most amusing was watching a friend hop into my helicopter and then seeing his character soaring through the sky about 10 feet outside the aircraft.

In addition to the regular missions, Breakpoint offers a player vs. player mode, which is integrated with the campaign so the progress you make in one carries to the other. But to keep late-game players from rolling over beginners, certain attributes are returned.

Despite all of its issues, my co-op partner and I enjoyed playing Breakpoint. We just had to remember that stealthy infiltrations were much more challenging and rewarding than simply running into a base and gunning down every dim-witted enemy in sight.

In addition, there's a good possibility that the game will improve with age. Developers are planning a wide range of additions and expansions in the next year, including cooperative raids, new character classes and new missions. Ubisoft has followed a similar course with Rainbow Six Siege, For Honor, The Division and even Ghost Recon Wildlands, and history has shown that developers have responded to players' concerns and improved the titles dramatically over time. I'm hoping the same will occur with Breakpoint.

**Bottom line:** C — Tom Clancy's Ghost Recon Breakpoint is flawed but there's still fun to be found, especially in cooperative play.

**Rating:** Mature, primarily for violence.  
**Platforms:** Xbox One, PlayStation 4, PC  
**Online:** ghost-recon.ubisoft.com  
Ubisoft provided a copy of the game for review purposes.



Overall grade:

C-

## HEALTH &amp; FITNESS



# Living long and strong

## Most habits that help improve longevity are simple — if only people would adopt them

By CHRISTIE ASCHWANDEN ■ Special to The Washington Post

**S**o you want to live to a healthy old age. But how? You could start doing pushups. A study published in February found that men who can hammer out 40 pushups in one session had a lower risk of heart attacks and cardiovascular disease compared with guys who could do only 10 or fewer.

Perhaps you want to work on your grip strength. That's another measure that tracks longevity in middle-aged folks.

And if that doesn't appeal, you could always try improving your walking speed, which researchers have used to predict mortality rates in older adults.

What these tests have in common is they're good shorthand of things that matter for longevity: overall health, fitness and muscle strength. A fit person walks faster than someone out of shape, and getting up off the floor is tricky for people with weak bones and muscles.

"Frailty is a really bad thing starting in middle age, and even worse as you get older," says Michael Joyner, a physician and human physiology researcher at the Mayo Clinic.

One way to think of longevity is "not as some magic property of a body, but as the lucky state of not having a fatal disease," says Steve Cole, professor of medicine and psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences at the UCLA School of Medicine. "By and large, people don't die of being old; they die of disease." Therefore, the study of longevity is a way of looking at disease risk or the rate of disease development, he says.

Over the years, various drugs and nutritional supplements have been studied for their potential to help us live longer, but nothing has been shown to work in humans to the extent that would be required for the Food and Drug Administration's approval, says Gordon Lithgow, chief academic officer at the California-based Buck Institute for Research on Aging.

While researchers continue searching for a pill to extend life, you'll have to try these verified methods.

### Exercise is key

The most powerful way to promote longevity and improve your long-term health is also simple and, depending on how you do it, free.

"Hands down, nothing compares to exercise," says Laura L. Carstensen, founding director of the Stanford Center on Longevity. "The great thing is that most people can do it, and you don't need 10,000 steps per day to get the benefits." It takes remarkably little exercise to get longevity benefits.

Even 10 to 15 minutes per day provides measurable rewards, says Michael Joyner, a physician and human physiology researcher at the Mayo Clinic. Going from sedentary to even just a bit of exercise is where you get the biggest payoffs. The health benefits — such as reducing your risk of heart disease and diabetes — increase with greater amounts of exercise, until you get to about an hour of exercise per day. After that, the rewards start to level off.

Physical activity also reduces the risk of diabetes, which one study found shaved

six years off life expectancy.

And it keeps your brain healthy, too. "Exercise has better effects on cognitive performance than sitting around playing brain games," Carstensen says. A 2006 study in Neuroscience found that exercise spurs the brain to release growth factors that promote new connections between neurons, keeping the brain healthy. There's even research suggesting that strength training can reverse some age-related changes in your muscles.

### Get enough sleep

Extend your life span while you sleep. It sounds like a bad infomercial, but it turns out that sleeping well is a good way to keep your body healthy for the long haul. Sleep is a time when your brain gets caught up on maintenance. In 2013, a team led by Maiken Nedergaard at the University of Rochester Medical Center published a study in Science concluding that sleep helps the brain clear out metabolic waste that accumulated during waking hours, providing a kind of restorative maintenance.

The consensus among sleep research-

MATTHEW RICHARDSON/For The Washington Post

ers is that seven to eight hours of sleep is ideal, but that's just a best guess based on the current data, Carstensen says.

"The biggest problem is that most of the data is self-reported and people are really bad at that," Carstensen says.

The advent of sleep trackers can help with the measurements, but they aren't always accurate, so avoid fixating too much on the exact numbers or you may end up in a cycle of anxiety that prevents you from sleeping.

### Eat right

Forget all those headlines you've seen about "anti-aging diets" and anti-aging "superfoods."

"These notions are generally not supported by science," Lithgow says. That's not to say diet isn't important, only that "nutrition is just a very difficult science," he says.

Severely restricting calories in lab animals makes them live longer, but "it's not clear that it works in humans," Lithgow says. Although there's plenty of evidence that it's not good to overeat, he says, whether drastically limiting food intake can extend life in people remains an open question.

It might be possible to get some of the benefits of calorie restriction without giving up so much food. Satchidananda Panda, who studies circadian biology at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies, suggests that restricting the timing of when you eat, rather than the amount, might provoke some of the healthy metabolic changes that reduce the risk of diabetes. Most of these studies have been done in mice, however, and Panda acknowledges that the human studies are small.

Some skepticism is warranted, however, Joyner says. "Time-restricted eating has shown some interesting results in small studies," he says, but "will it be sustainable over time in the real world? This is important because most dietary strategies work only if they are adhered to."

What does seem clear, however, is that metabolic health is important for long-term health, because it keeps diabetes in check and that insulin sensitivity in particular appears crucial.

Given what we know right now, a Mediterranean diet — with its heart-healthy emphasis on fish, vegetables, fruits, nuts, healthy fats like olive oil, whole grains and limited consumption of red meat — "is probably the best approach for improving longevity," Carstensen says.

But the benefits are pretty modest. If

you hate eating that way, then the payoff probably won't feel worth it to you, she says. At least try to eat a diet rich in fruits and vegetables.

### Drink alcohol in moderation

The idea of red wine as a health elixir became popular in the 1980s with the observation that rates of coronary heart disease were low in France, despite the predominance of a diet relatively high in fat and cholesterol. The French penchant for a glass of red wine with dinner was proposed as an explanation for this "French Paradox," popularizing the notion of red wine as heart helper.

Subsequent studies have found that moderate alcohol consumption may reduce the risk of coronary heart disease, and a two-year randomized clinical trial in Israel showed that people with Type 2 diabetes who were assigned to drink a glass of red wine with dinner every night experienced some improvements in blood markers associated with cardiovascular disease risk.

But other studies suggest that alcohol may raise the risk of many cancers, and a report published last year in the journal *Lancet* concluded that there's no amount of alcohol that improves health. What gives?

"Alcohol studies are very much like nutrition studies — based almost exclusively on self-reports, and we know that people are really bad at self-reporting," Carstensen says. "Most people, when they say they're drinking two drinks per day, are probably consuming more. We don't know the amounts that people are consuming nor do we know what else they do." There's some evidence that people who abstain from alcohol are sicker or less healthy than those who imbibe a little.

Drinking to excess — more than one or two drinks a day — is unhealthy, and will take a toll on your longevity — no doubt about it. But taking the published studies together, "I don't think we have a lot of evidence that moderate alcohol is bad for you," Carstensen says. At the same time, she'd "be very hesitant to recommend that people who don't drink should start."

### Manage stress

In today's world, it's easy to live in a state of chronic stress, and the problem isn't just that stress feels lousy. It also makes you more susceptible to diseases that could shorten your life.

Researchers are now learning that many conditions associated with older age — such as cancer, heart attacks and Alzheimer's disease — share a common ingredient: inflammation.

Under normal conditions, inflammation is simply the body's response to injury — it's how the body heals cuts and wounds and other insults, Cole says. "Inflammation by itself is not inherently evil." But when we're feeling chronically threatened or under siege, our bodies amp up their inflammatory response to react as our biological response to injury, and that inadvertently fuels the development of an array of age-related diseases, where inflammation is a common fertilizer, Cole says.

Research has identified chronic stresses that can provoke harmful biological changes, including living in poverty, caregiving for a dying spouse, losing a loved one, suffering post-traumatic stress disorder, and experiencing prejudice.

"Any way of feeling threatened or insecure seems to be enough to activate the body to produce more inflammation," Cole says. This is one of the best defined concepts to be used to measure our experience it and how we end up generating a body that's a fertile ground for the development of these diseases."

Your chance of developing chronic inflammation also rises with the passing years. "Inflammation seems to be a general sign of aging, where our inflammatory processes are being turned on accumulated," Lithgow says.

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OPINION

Protect, but use designs that look like schools

By JENINE KOTOB  
 Special to The Washington Post

Mass shootings wreck our sense of safety, and in their wake, communities often move to fortify public spaces. Our gut reaction is often to harden public buildings by erecting fences as barriers and installing more video cameras and metal detectors. This human desire to protect our loved ones has spawned a \$2.7 billion school security industry, and it drives calls for see-through backpacks and bulletproof vests and armed teachers.

The urge is understandable. As Yale sociologist Vida Bajak has explained, these acts of violence represent an invasion of our sense of home and undermine our collective ownership of our own neighborhoods. "It's not just about loss of life," she told the Trace. "Shootings also steal from people the sense that they inhabit a place, that it's their space." Too often, our response is reactionary: building up our schools as if they are bunkers.

As of May, there were 234 school shootings in the 20 years since the massacre at Columbine High School in Colorado. These occurred nearly once a month, on average. More than 228,000 children have experienced these unspeakable acts of violence, according to a Washington Post database. No student should be forced to endure the trauma of a school shooting — I know, because I've lived through two.

The first occurred on April 16, 2007, when I was studying at Virginia Tech. Thirty-two people were killed that day, making it the deadliest school shooting in U.S. history. I still recall the trauma as if it were yesterday: the hours of searching for my good friend Reema Samaha, only to find out that she had died; the sadness my entire faith community felt at the murder of our friend and classmate, Waleed Shaalan; the shock of losing my former teacher, Jocelyne Couture-Novak.

The second took place in the aftermath of the Boston Marathon bombing in 2013, when officials locked down the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where I attended graduate school. The bombers shot and killed Sean Collier, a campus police officer. Shootings still haunt me. They are why I've dedicated my career to implementing design solutions that can better protect our students.

During my time at MIT, I studied schools in conflict zones. I traveled to refugee camps operated by the United Nations in the Levant, seeing the buildings

and speaking with students and teachers. These cramped, overpopulated camps had spatial constraints and limited financial resources; their school grounds featured tall concrete or metal walls intended to protect students from nearby bombings, stray bullets, or sights of military tanks passing by.

In the Am'ari Camp, I stood atop a school building designed like a fortress, with a principal who told me his students couldn't envision their own future where they couldn't see beyond the walls that surrounded them. It was no wonder that many of the students suffered from depression, high stress and feelings of isolation. Still, despite the daily hardships, students and teachers made the journey to school each day believing that an education was their path to a better life.

I took that spirit of resiliency home to the United States, where I've observed how the desire to protect children tends to manifest itself in high schools in Indiana, which NBC called the "safest school in America" and which the state's sheriff's association declared a "flagship," invested in \$400,000 worth of upgrades, including smoke cannons in the hallway and panic buttons for teachers. In 2018, elementary and middle schools across Oklahoma began installing bulletproof storm shelters, starting at \$30,000 each, in their classrooms.

These measures are intended to shield students, should the unthinkable occur. But it's hard to imagine that it makes them feel any safer as they go about their daily business of trying to learn.

School operations and maintenance budgets are shared limed in the United States, total spending on schools' operations, maintenance, capital and new construction is underfunded by approximately \$46 billion per year, according to a 2016 report drawing on federal data. As of the 2012-2013 school year, the average age of a school building was 44 years old. These decades-old facilities have become increasingly unhealthy places for students, due to problems ranging from mold and poor air and water quality to broken plumbing and rodents. We must invest our resources strategically to ensure that our schools promote well-being and allow children to flourish, while still providing security.

But designing a better school goes beyond installing metal detectors. A few basic yet effective design principles go a long way.

First, glass is not our enemy. Glass can be a powerful security tool: It provides sight lines that give adults the ability to quickly spot any danger outside of the classroom,

as well as possible escape routes from the building. Some districts are investing in low-cost summer upgrades, applying opaque, tinted film to windows and glass to eliminate an intruder's ability to see into these spaces. This results in a massive loss for the school, reducing natural light and views of the outdoors, which studies have shown can improve academic performance. Instead, clear glass could be integrated in strategic and controlled ways, so we can retain the benefits of transparency while creating hiding spaces, out of the sight of passersby.

Second, we should focus on access control. Having too many entry points can weaken a building. The more control we have over who is coming in and out of a building, the better. Safer schools should feature landscaping that creates natural barriers. Strategic placement of ornamental fencing, vegetation and lighting can help protect a building without constantly implying that students may be in danger. That aesthetic can be pleasant and nurturing, rather than starkly intimidating.

Ultimately, security features should be enveloped seamlessly and invisibly into the building. Projects such as the new Sandy Hook Elementary School integrate security measures into a building that also manages to be beautiful. To enter the facility, for example, you must walk across bridges over a rain garden wrapping the building. It's essentially a modern-day moat, but it can also serve as an educational tool for students. Throughout the building, additional strategies have been implemented: classroom doors that lock automatically without a key, entire wings of the school that can lock down to isolate a threat, and certain windows and walls with bullet-resistant materials to harden against gunfire. While building design is not a panacea to school violence, the design process presents a one-time opportunity where stakeholders can voice their concerns, desires and vision that expresses their community's ideals.

Students and teachers deserve to go to school without fearing for their safety, but we need to think more deeply about what that means. Design features can enhance learning or inhibit it. Most school buildings will outlast the debate over gun violence; we need to design them in a way that will ensure the success of students for generations to come.

Jenine Kotob is an architectural designer, youth advocate and community activist with over a decade of experience designing schools.

More attention, funding needed to address vet suicide

simply guess the reasons as to why veteran suicide by firearms has increased. However, more can and must be done to unpack this issue.

Since we do not have enough data and information as to how we should properly confront this problem, the only viable recourse is to petition our representatives in Washington to look into the matter and provide funding for research and data in order to determine the source.

When many of us veterans were on active duty, we approached matters both locally and strategically; our policymakers should take the same approach as it relates to this issue.

This is a dilemma that can be resolved with the proper funding for long-term, data-driven research. Our representatives in Congress should address this matter instead of "punting" the issue and hoping that it resolves itself.

Better understanding the risk of suicide by firearms, particularly as it relates to the veteran community, should certainly be worthy of specific actions. The last thing we need is to continue to ignore this issue and simply watch it manifest itself before our eyes.

Veterans are proud to have served our country. I believe, as many other veterans believe, now is the time for our elected representatives in Washington to provide the necessary funding that is required to produce research that will help lead us to the correct answers for ending gun violence and veterans suicide.

Resources are being expended on other efforts, why isn't this issue worthy of the same treatment? Hopefully, our leaders in Washington will hear us and make the right call.

Rudy D. Placencia is a former Army officer and combat veteran.

By RUDY D. PLACENCIA  
 Special to Stars and Stripes

I was honored to have deployed on several tours for my country in Iraq and the Middle East. However, upon my return, there have been some issues that have become major concerns for myself as well as many of my fellow veterans that directly impact the veteran community.

One that needs to be addressed is high suicide rates and mental health problems among veterans. We often discuss this unfortunate reality, but do we know what is driving the increase in veteran suicide rates? How can we be better equipped to deal with this issue?

Many of these suicides are done with a firearm, leading many veterans to ask why our government has not properly addressed this issue. It would be a futile exercise to



..... Camp As Sayliyah .....

**October 23rd at 1800  
at Top Off**

..... Al Udeid Air Base .....

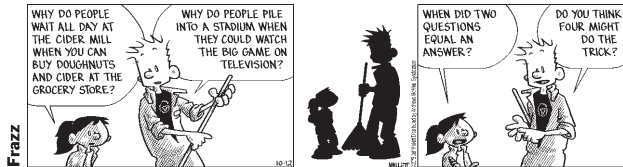
**October 24th at 1800  
BPC Fitness Center**

- Wear a costume! The 10 best costumes win great prizes! •
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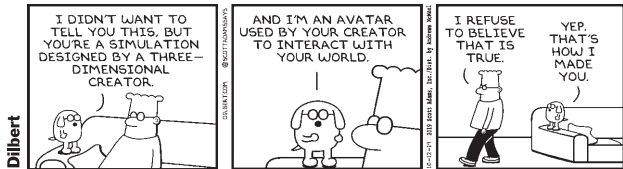
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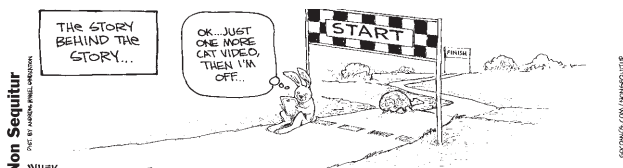
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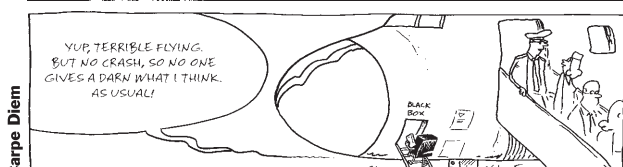
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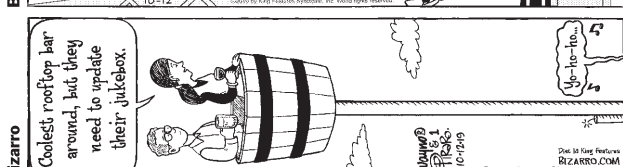
Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro

Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	
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48						49					50		
51						52					53		
54						55					56		

ACROSS

- 1 Pen fluids
- 5 Mark Harmon TV series
- 9 Insult, slangily
- 12 Earring type
- 13 Swiss river
- 14 Hubbub
- 15 Writer Quindlen
- 16 Lure
- 17 Ump
- 18 Beloved
- 19 Carry- (travel bags)
- 20 Membership
- 21 Recede
- 23 PC key
- 25 Tangles
- 28 "Doctor Zhivago" star
- 32 Asian capital
- 33 Borneo ape, for short
- 34 Place in a crypt
- 36 Gripe nonstop
- 37 Speedometer stat
- 38 Fun and games
- 39 Toast toppings
- 42 Ms. Thurman
- 44 Take five
- 48 Here (Fr.)
- 49 Physics bit
- 50 Black-and-white cookie
- 51 Long, crosser

DOWN

- 1 "If- a Hammer"
- 2 Zilch
- 3 Hawaiian coffee
- 4 Guest quarters
- 5 Bigwigs
- 6 "Misery" star James
- 7 Van Gogh painting
- 8 Filming site
- 9 Challenge
- 10 Concept
- 11 Cushy
- 20 Cornfield protectors
- 22 Airship
- 24 Push rudely
- 25 That lady
- 26 Indian bread
- 27 Picnic crasher
- 29 Snitch
- 30 Business mag
- 31 E- connection
- 35 Himalayan country
- 36 "Seinfeld" character
- 39 Leave at the altar
- 40 Exotic berry
- 41 Wee parasite
- 43 NYC gallery
- 45 Part of Q.E.D.
- 46 Antitoxins
- 47 Chinese secret society
- 49 "Sense and Sensibility" director Lee

Answer to Previous Puzzle

Z	I	P		S	W	A	M		C	A	P	S		
A	L	E		K	E	N	O		A	S	I	A		
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10-12

CRYPTOQUIP

Q G L C B U C W V O N T L T Q J N V K  
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 N F V X O C B K M Q K G Z T T , Q J

N F Z N T V Z W V J - M O C A A Q K X ?  
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE MOST POPULAR TUNES ON THE CHARTS ABOUT COMPETITIVE PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES: TOP SPORTY HITS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals V

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



# THE WORLD'S MOST DANGEROUS PAPER ROUTE

## ***AAFES Show Dates Timeline***

**Kuwait – Arifjan Zone 1: November 18th @ 2000**

**Kuwait – Buehring: November 18th @ 2000**

**Kuwait – Ali Al Salem: November 19th @ 2000**

**Qatar – Al Udiad: October 24th @ 2000**

**Qatar – As Sayliyah: October 23rd @ 2000**

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# SPORTS BRIEFS/WNBA FINALS

## Briefly

### Biles dominant en route to fifth all-around world gymnastics title

Associated Press

STUTTGART, Germany — Simone Biles won her fifth all-around title at the gymnastics world championships Thursday, underlining her status as the clear favorite for next year's Olympic gold medal.

The U.S. gymnast scored 58,999 points to finish 2.1 points ahead of China's Tang Xijing, who was entered as a late replacement for a teammate.



Biles

Biles' margin of victory was her biggest at a world all-around event, and matched her winning margin at the 2016 Olympics, before she took a year off.

Angelina Melnikova of Russia was third on 56,399.

No other woman has won more than three all-around titles. Biles' victory makes it seven wins in a row for the United States in the women's all-around, matching the Soviet Union's record streak at world championships in the 1970s and 1980s.

Biles has won the all-around title at every world championships she's competed in, starting in 2013. She skipped the 2017 season, when Morgan Hurd won the gold.

### Boxer Spence injured in crash

DALLAS — Welterweight boxing champion Errol Spence crashed a speeding Ferrari in Dallas early Thursday and was badly injured but is expected to survive, police said.

The crash happened just before 3 a.m., when Spence's Ferrari crossed a median into oncoming traffic and flipped over several times, ejecting Spence, who wasn't wearing a seatbelt, police said. Spence was taken to a hospital and placed in the intensive care unit.

"His injuries are not life-threatening. His parents are with him at the hospital," Tim Smith, a spokesman for Spence's promoter, Premier Boxing Champions, told The Associated Press.

Police said they're still investigating the cause of the crash, but they noted that the Ferrari was speeding at the time.

### Calhoun facing accusations

HARTFORD, Conn. — Hall of Fame basketball coach Jim Calhoun has been accused of sexual discrimination by a former associate athletic director at the University of Saint Joseph, the Division III school where Calhoun now works.

Jaclyn Piscitelli filed a lawsuit Wednesday in U.S. District Court against the small Catholic school in West Hartford, which began admitting men in 2018.

She alleges she was fired after complaining about the conduct of men in the athletic department, including the 77-year-old Calhoun, after he was hired to form and coach the school's men's basketball team.

She alleges, among other things, that the former UConn coach once called her "hot" and on another occasion forced her to clean up coffee grounds he spilled, telling her it was something his wife would do for him.

A spokeswoman says Saint Joseph "takes compliance with all matters relating to Title IX very seriously."



PHOTOS BY ALEX BRANDON/AP

Mystics guard Natasha Cloud, left, forward Elena Delle Donne and guard Kristi Toliver celebrate during the second half of Game 5 of the WNBA Finals on Thursday in Washington. The Mystics beat the Connecticut Sun 89-78 to win the series 3-2.

## Washington wraps up first WNBA title; Meesseman named Finals MVP

By DOUG FEINBERG  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Elena Delle Donne and the Washington Mystics capped an eventful WNBA season with the team's first championship.

A year that began with the league missing some of its top players because of injuries and rest ended with a compelling five-game championship series.

Delle Donne battled through injuries all season, a broken nose early on and then three herniated disks in her back in the Finals. None of it mattered. She wouldn't be denied her first title.

"To be on a team that could carry me when I wasn't 100 percent really means a lot to just get over this hump and to be able to push through when not feeling great," she said.

It wasn't easy. "It took five games, took four in the semis, it took battling injuries, it took a lot of resilience, fight, heart," said Kristi Toliver, the only Mystics player to win a WNBA title before Thursday night. "We had the biggest heart all year, and we were the most focused and determined team all year, and we're just really proud of what we've done. But last year obviously certainly motivated us to be really, really focused for the season."

It helped that Finals MVP Emma Meesseman was back after missing last year to play with the Belgian national team. "I don't think I'm the missing piece. I'm their teammate (and did what) I need to do to help my team win a championship. This is my family right here," said Meesseman, who scored 22 points in Washington's 89-78 victory over the Connecticut Sun on Thursday night.

Delle Donne, a seven-year veteran and two-time MVP, came to Washington three



Mystics center Emma Meesseman, right, shoots in front of Connecticut Sun center Brianna Jones during Thursday's WNBA Finals Game 5. Meesseman, who scored 22 points in Washington's 89-78 victory, was named Finals MVP.

years ago in a trade from Chicago. She grew up in Delaware, about an hour from the capital. Delle Donne sat out a year in college when she transferred in the summer before her freshman season from UConn to Delaware. She wanted to be closer to sister Lizzie, who is blind, deaf and has cerebral palsy.

"It feels phenomenal, my goodness, feels so good. Hard to put it into words," said Delle Donne, who fell short in two previous Finals appearances. "To win it with such a great group of people. We wanted to win it for the person next to us. We'll remember this season. I'm kind of sad the season's about to be over. My goodness, we sure ended this on a high note."

It was a fitting conclusion to an entertaining series and WNBA season. This

was the seventh series in league history that had gone to a deciding Game 5, and the home team has won five of them.

"I think it was good for the league," Connecticut coach Curt Miller said. "It may not have been a buzzer-beater. We didn't have that kind of finish in any of the five games, but man, it was good offensive basketball, and it was laying it on the line defensively."

Coach Mike Thibault earned his first WNBA championship. The league's all-time winningest coach had reached the Finals three times in his career—twice with Connecticut and last season with Washington—but fell short each time.

Now he can add a title to his name. "Sweet, isn't it?" he said.



# MLB PLAYOFFS

## Scoreboard

**Playoffs**  
**x-if necessary**  
**WILD CARD**  
 Washington 4, Milwaukee 3  
 Tampa Bay 5, Oakland 1

**DIVISION SERIES**  
**(Best-of-five)**  
**National League**  
**Houston 3, Tampa Bay 2**  
 Houston 6, Tampa Bay 2  
 Houston 3, Tampa Bay 1  
 Tampa Bay 10, Houston 3  
 Tampa Bay 4, Houston 1  
**Thursday:** Houston 6, Tampa Bay 1

**A.L. Yankees 3, Minnesota 0**  
 N.Y. Yankees 10, Minnesota 4  
 N.Y. Yankees 8, Minnesota 2  
 N.Y. Yankees 5, Minnesota 1

**National League**  
**Washington 3, L.A. Dodgers 2**  
 L.A. Dodgers 6, Washington 4  
 Washington 4, L.A. Dodgers 3  
 L.A. Dodgers 10, Washington 4  
 Washington 6, L.A. Dodgers 1  
 Washington 7, L.A. Dodgers 3 (10)

**St. Louis 3, Atlanta 2**  
 St. Louis 7, Atlanta 6  
 Atlanta 3, St. Louis 0  
 Atlanta 3, St. Louis 1  
 St. Louis 5, Atlanta 4, 10 innings  
 St. Louis 13, Atlanta 1

**LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES**  
**(Best-of-seven)**  
**American League**  
**N.Y. Yankees vs. Houston**  
**Saturday:** at Houston  
**AFN-Sports, 2 a.m. Monday CET**  
**Sunday:** at Houston  
**AFN-Sports, 2 a.m. Sunday CET**  
**Tuesday:** at N.Y. Yankees  
**Wednesday:** at N.Y. Yankees  
**Thursday, Oct. 18:** at N.Y. Yankees  
**x-Saturday, Oct. 19:** at Houston  
**x-Sunday, Oct. 20:** at Houston  
**National League**  
**St. Louis vs. St. Louis**  
**Friday:** at St. Louis  
**Saturday:** at St. Louis  
**AFN-Sports, 10 p.m. Saturday CET**  
**Monday:** at Washington  
**AFN-Sports, 2 a.m. Tuesday CET**  
**Wednesday:** at Washington  
**x-Thursday, Oct. 18:** at St. Louis  
**x-Saturday, Oct. 19:** at St. Louis  
**WORLD SERIES**  
**(Best-of-seven)**  
**Tuesday, Oct. 22:** at better record  
**Wednesday, Oct. 23:** at better record  
**Friday, Oct. 25:** at worse record  
**Saturday, Oct. 26:** at worse record  
**x-Sunday, Oct. 27:** at worse record  
**x-Tuesday, Oct. 28:** at better record  
**x-Wednesday, Oct. 30:** at better record



DIRK SHADD/TNS

Tampa Bay Rays starting pitcher Tyler Glasnow, right, and catcher Travis d'Arnaud walk back to the dugout after the first inning against the Astros in Game 5 of the ALDS on Thursday in Houston. The Astros scored four runs in the first inning en route to a 6-1 victory.

# Ace: Cole closes out Rays

## FROM BACK PAGE

Altuve and the 107-win Astros against Aaron Judge and the 103-win Yankees. Game 1 is Saturday night in Houston — the Astros won four of seven meetings this season.

Michael Brantley and Altuve put the finishing touches on this victory, hitting back-to-back home runs in the eighth. The Astros advanced to their third straight ALCS, and are aiming for their second World Series crown in that span.

Houston beat the Yankees in a seven-game ALCS on the way to its first championship in 2017. The Astros also won the 2015 AL wild-card game at Yankee Stadium.

The Rays beat Oakland in the AL wild-card game, then took the last two against the Astros to extend their first playoff run since 2013.

But facing Cole, Alex Bregman and the Astros scored four times in the first against Tyler Glasnow.

Cole followed his 15-strikeout gem in a Game 2 win with another overpowering effort. The right-hander, who grew up a Yankees fan and was originally drafted by them but didn't sign, improved to 18-0 in his last 24 starts.

Cole topped the majors with 326 strikeouts this season, led the AL with a 2.50 ERA and posted 20 wins, one behind Verlander for most in the big leagues.

The 29-year-old struck out the first two batters in the eighth before Willy Adames grounded out to end Cole's night. He beat his chest once before walking to the dugout to a huge ovation from the rowdy sellout crowd of 43,418 at Minute Maid Park.

After winning an MLB-best and franchise-record 107 games in the regular season, the Astros were determined not to suffer the same fate as the Dodgers, winners of 106 games, who were ousted from the playoffs by the wild-card Nationals on Wednesday night.

Houston had been outscored 14-4 in the last two games, but looked sharp at home, where it went 60-21 in the regular season.

A day after the Cardinals scored a postseason-record 10 runs in the first inning of a 13-

1 win over the Braves, the Astros scored four in the last. Now, it wasn't nearly as big as what St. Louis did, but after the Astros were shut down at Tropicana Field, it was just as huge for them.

The Astros will make their seventh appearance in an LCS and are the first team to reach the ALCS three seasons in a row since the Detroit Tigers did it from 2011-13.

Altuve's shot gave him 11 postseason homers to pass Chase Utley for most all-time by a second baseman.

Cole extended his major league record by striking out at least 10 batters for the 11th straight game, a stretch where he's fanned 135.

Cole pitched a 1-2-3 third but didn't strike anyone out in the frame, ending a streak of 73 consecutive innings with at least one strikeout. The streak, which dated back to Aug. 1, was the longest such streak since 1961, besting the second-best stretch by 33 innings.

George Springer and Brantley hit back-to-back singles and Altuve's single made it 1-0. Bregman's double, which landed just in front of the bullpen in right-center, scored two more to push the lead to 3-0.

Yuli Gurriel's groundball single to left field added another Houston's five hits and four runs set franchise playoff records for most hits and runs in the first inning.

After the game, Glasnow was certain he was "tipping his pitches in the opening frame."

"It was pretty obvious as far as the tips go," said Glasnow, refusing to use that as an excuse for his rough start. "I left some pitches that were there to hit, like over the middle of the plate and they're really good hitters and they can do anything, I don't care how hard you throw."

Glasnow, like Cole a former Pirates pitcher before Pittsburgh traded away both right-handers in 2018, allowed hits to his first four batters — and all scored.

It was clear by how Jose Altuve and Alex Bregman communicated things to teammates after they had back-to-back RBI hits that they perhaps knew what was coming from Glasnow.

## NLCS capsule

A capsule look at the National League Championship Series between the Washington Nationals and St. Louis Cardinals.

**Schedule:** Game 1, Friday, at St. Louis; Game 2, Saturday, at St. Louis; Game 3, Monday, at Washington; Game 4, Tuesday, at Washington; x-Game 5, Wednesday, at Washington; x-Game 6, Friday, Oct. 18, at St. Louis; x-Game 7, Saturday, Oct. 19, at St. Louis.

**x-if necessary**  
**Season series:** Cardinals won 5-2.

**Projected lineups**  
**Nationals:** SS Trea Turner (.298, 19 HRs, 57 RBIs, 37 2Bs, 35 SBs, 96 runs), RF Adam Eaton (.278, 15, 49, 15 SBs, 103 runs), 3B Anthony Rendon (.319, 34, 126, 44 2Bs, 117 runs, 1.010 OPS), LF Juan Soto (.282, 34, 110, 110 runs, .949 OPS), 2B Howie Kendrick (.344, 17, 62), 1B Ryan Zimmerman (.257, 6, 27 in 52 games), C Kurt Suzuki (.264, 17, 63) or Yan Gomes (.223, 12, 43 in 97 games), CF Victor Robles (.255, 17, 65, 28 SBs) or Michael A. Taylor (.250, 1, 3 in 53 games)

**Cardinals:** CF Dexter Fowler (.236, 18, 65), 2B Koltan Wong (.285, 11, 59, 24 SBs), 1B Paul Goldschmidt (.256, 33, 95), LF Marcell Ozuna (.242, 29, 88), C Yadier Molina (.271, 10, 57), 3B Matt Carpenter (.226, 14, 43), RF Tommy Edman (.307, 11, 36), SS Paul DeJong (.234, 30, 78)

**Starting pitchers**  
**Nationals:** RH Anibal Sanchez (11-8, 3.85 ERA), RH Max Scherzer (11-7, 2.92, 243 Ks, 172 1/3 IP), RH Stephen Strasburg (18-6, 3.32, 251 Ks, NL-high 209 IP in 33 starts), LH Patrick Corbin (14-7, 3.25, 238 Ks, 202 IP)  
**Cardinals:** RH Miles Mikolas (9-14, 4.16), RH Adam Wainwright (14-10, 4.19), RH Jack Flaherty (10-8, 2.85), RH Dakota Hudson (16-7, 3.35)

**Relievers**  
**Nationals:** LH Sean Doolittle (6-5, 4.05 ERA, 29/35 saves), RH Daniel Hudson (6-3, 3.00, 2/3 wins with Toronto; 3-0, 1.44, 6 saves with Washington), RH Fernando Rodney (0-2, 4.42 with Oakland; 0-3, 4.05, 2 saves with Washington), RH Hunter Strickland (0-1, 8.10, 2 saves with Seattle; 2-0, 5.14, with Washington), RH Tanner Rainey (2-3, 3.91), RH Wandy Suero (6-9, 4.54, 1 save).

**Cardinals:** RH Carlos Martinez (4-2, 3.23, 24/27 saves), RH Giovanni Gallegos (3-2, 2.34), LH Andrew Miller (5-6, 4.45), RH John Brebbia (3-4, 3.59), LH Tyler Webb (2-1, 3.76), RH Ryan Helsley (2-0, 2.95), LH Genesis Cabrera (0-2, 4.87, 1 save).

**Matchups**  
 Second postseason meeting between the teams. Cardinals won 3-2 in 2012 Division Series, when Nationals famously shut down Strasburg before playoffs to protect his arm following Tommy John surgery. St. Louis overcame 6-0 deficit in decisive Game 5 at Washington, rallying from two runs down with four in ninth inning to win 9-7. That was first of four NLDS heartbreaks in six seasons for Nationals — three in Game 5 at home — before they finally got over hump against NL-best Dodgers in Game 5 this year to win a playoff series for first time since team moved to Washington ahead of 2005 season. ... Cardinals won three of four in Washington from April 29 to May 2, beating Corbin, Sanchez and Scherzer before Strasburg topped Hudson 2-1 in series finale. Wacha, Wainwright and Mikolas earned wins. St. Louis took two of three from Nationals at home in September, with wins going to Hudson and Wainwright. Corbin beat Mikolas in middle game of series.

**Big picture**  
**Nationals:** Surged to playoff spot for fifth time in eight years by turning things around after dismal start; Nats were 19-31 after May 23 loss to Mets completed four-game sweep. Washington is first team in more than a century to fall 12 games below .500 and finish with 93 wins or more.

**Cardinals:** Routed the Cubs 9-0 in regular-season finale to win first NL Central title since 2015. Cardinals (91-71) had clinched playoff spot with victory over Cubs on Sept. 21. Division crown came in Mike Schlitt's first full season as manager. ... Cardinals were a 500 team at All-Star break before midsummer tear.

— Associated Press

**Thursday**  
**Houston 6, Tampa Bay 1**

Tampa Bay	ab	r	h	bi	ab	r	h	bi
Meadows	4	0	0	0	Springer	4	1	1
Pham	4	0	0	0	Brantley	3	2	2
Choi	1	0	0	0	Marschick	0	0	0
Arnaud	3	0	0	0	Adames	3	0	0
Sogard	2	0	0	0	Bregman	2	4	1
Garcia	4	0	0	0	Altuve	3	0	0
Wendt	3	0	0	0	Correa	5	0	1
Kiermaier	3	0	0	0	Madson	2	0	0
Adames	3	0	0	0	Rodriguez	1	0	0
					R.Chirinos	0	0	0

**Totals** 28 1 2 1  
**Tampa Bay** 30 0 0 0  
**Houston** 400 000 1-6  
**HR—**Sogard (1), Brantley (1), Altuve (2), HR—Sogard (1), Brantley (1), Altuve (3)

Tampa Bay	IP	R	ER	BB	SO
Glasnow, L-2	2 1/3	5	4	4	0
Snell	1 2/3	0	0	0	3
Wright	1 2/3	0	0	0	1
Yarbrough	0	0	0	0	1
d'Arnaud	0	0	0	0	1
Castillo	1/3	1	0	0	0
Poche	1/3	0	0	0	1
Wendt	1/3	0	0	0	1
Mckay	1/3	0	0	0	1

**Houston:** Cole, W-2 0  
 Osuna 0  
 Hargrath pitched to 1 batter in the 5th. T-3:12. A-43,418 (41,168).

**Calendar**  
**Oct. 11** — League Championship Series start.  
**Oct. 22** — World Series starts.



**NLCS Game 2**  
**Washington Nationals**  
**at St. Louis Cardinals**  
**AFN-Sports**  
**10 p.m. Saturday CET**

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

## All-America watch

## Clemson's D-line ready to repeat success

Tigers' newcomers amply filling void left by last year's trio of first-round draft choices

By PETE IACOBELLI  
Associated Press

CLEMSON, S.C. — John Simpson is certain of two things about the new starters on the defensive line for No. 2 Clemson: They are tired of the questions and comparisons to last year's All-American group and "these boys are ready."

Simpson, the starting left guard for the Tigers, would know. He spent the past few seasons going up against defensive tackles Christian Wilkins and Dexter Lawrence and ends Clelin Ferrell and Austin Bryant at practice. Ferrell, Wilkins and Lawrence were all first-round NFL Draft picks in April. Bryant went a couple of rounds later, the core four of Clemson's defense finally done harassing quarterbacks and racking up Atlantic Coast Conference and national titles.

Except maybe these new guys are just as good. They will get the chance to show that again Saturday when Clemson faces Florida State.

Logan Rudolph has locked down one end spot with junior Nyles Pinckney and freshman Tyler Davis filling the middle owned by Wilkins and Lawrence the past few seasons. Junior Justin Foster and sophomore Xavier Thomas share the other end position.

"There's no drop-off," Simpson said with a sideways smile. "Not at all."

The numbers — and the line performance — bear that out. Clemson leads the ACC in total defense (255 yards allowed per game) and is third in sacks (19 during its 5-0 start. And they have helped the Tigers come up big in critical situations, none bigger than last time out when Thomas and linebacker James Skalski brought down North Carolina quarterback Sam Howell short of the goal on a two-point try in the final minutes of Clemson's 21-20 win.

"I feel like everybody's on the same level and we're all just growing together," Pinckney said.

There's a lot of growth to do and this group is not yet at the level of the departed stars.

"Hey, we don't have to be Clelin Ferrell or Austin Bryant," said Rudolph, a 6-2, 240-pound sophomore who is the younger brother of Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Mason Rudolph. "We just need to be ourselves and give great effort every day and if we do that, we're going to be successful."

The revelation so far this season is Davis, who at 6-1 and 290 pounds, accomplished something Wilkins and Lawrence did not by becoming the first true freshman to start at defensive tackle for Clemson since 1974.

Davis is nowhere near as tall or bulky as the 6-4, 345-pound Lawrence. But his first step is just as quick and he's manhandled much bigger offensive linemen. Davis sits second on the Tigers with 2.5 sacks this season. Pinckney could see early that Davis was something special. When the older tackle would quiz the freshman on assignments and technique, Davis always had the right answer.

"He always had a jump on it," Pinckney said.

Brent Venables, the defensive coordinator at Clemson since 2012, has had to make wholesale changes across the front before. Clemson lost its front four after 2014, a group that included future Atlanta Falcons



CHRIS SEWARD/AP

Clemson defensive linemen Logan Rudolph, left, and Tyler Davis, right, chase down North Carolina running back Michael Carter.

players Vic Beasley and Grady Jarrett, yet the Tigers began their run of four consecutive ACC titles and College Football Playoff berths with a new quartet up front.

Venables places a priority on subbing in backups who see meaningful minutes, getting them ready for their chance up front in a few years.

"You've got to develop your team," Venables said.

Venables said his biggest concern entering the season was where the leadership would come from. Wilkins and Ferrell weren't only defensive leaders, but drove everything the Tigers did during the 2018 national championship season. So far, Venables is pleased that Pinckney and backup Jordan Williams have set a strong tone for younger players to follow.

Maybe some of these players will end up on the All-America team, but time will tell.

Just stop the questions about replacing the stars.

"We knew we were going to get that, hearing 'All the good guys are gone. All our better guys are gone,'" said Williams, a third-year sophomore. "But we never paid attention to that. We wanted to be our own legacy."

## Who's hot?

## Isaiah Hodgins, WR, Oregon State

The junior has made steady progress. He contributed and worked his way into the starting lineup as a freshman and became the team's leading receiver last season with 59 receptions and 876 yards.

He is on pace to blow those numbers away this season, and his coming off consecutive games with 10 receptions. After 20 catches for 285 yards and four touchdowns the last



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

Oregon State wide receiver Isaiah Hodgins has 20 catches for 285 yards and four touchdowns the past two weeks.

two weeks, Hodgins is second in the nation in receiving yards at 126.4 per game.

## On The Line

(SEC National analyst Cole Cubelic, a former guard at Auburn, breaks down an offensive lineman playing at an All-America level)

## Josh Myers, C, Ohio State

The first-year starter has stepped into a spot held last year by Michael Jordan, who was drafted in the fourth round by the Bengals. Myers has not let the play in the middle of the Buckeyes' line slip one bit.

"Myers was exceptional in helping the OSU line provide movement at the point

of attack as well as finding defenders on the second level against Michigan State," Cubelic said. "His power and ability to finish blocks sets him apart from other collegiate centers."

## All-America matchup

Neville Gallimore, NT, Oklahoma vs. Zach Shackelford, C, Texas

Gallimore has been disruptive in the middle for an Oklahoma defense that has played better than last year, but will face its most severe test yet. Shackelford has been an anchor for a Texas line that has grown into a reliable and at times dominant group.

# COLLEGE FOOTBALL

## TOP 25 SCHEDULE

- Friday's games**  
 No. 13 Oregon vs. Colorado  
 No. 20 Virginia at Miami
- Saturday's games**  
 No. 1 Alabama at No. 24 Texas A&M  
 No. 2 Clemson vs. Florida State  
 No. 3 Georgia vs. South Carolina  
 No. 5 LSU vs. No. 7 Florida  
 No. 6 Oklahoma vs. No. 11 Texas at Dallas  
 No. 8 Wisconsin vs. Michigan State  
 No. 9 Notre Dame vs. Southern Cal  
 No. 10 Penn State at No. 17 Iowa  
 No. 14 Boise State vs. Hawaii  
 No. 15 Utah at Oregon State  
 No. 16 Michigan at Illinois  
 No. 18 Arizona State vs. Washington State  
 No. 19 Wake Forest vs. Louisville  
 No. 22 Baylor vs. Texas Tech  
 No. 23 Memphis at Temple  
 No. 25 Cincinnati at Houston

## SERVICE ACADEMIES

### Air Force (3-2)

vs. Fresno State (2-2), Saturday  
**Last week:** Lost to Navy 34-25

### Army (3-2)

at Western Kentucky (3-2), Saturday  
**Last week:** Lost to Tulane 42-33

### Navy (3-1)

at Tulsa (2-3), Saturday  
**Last week:** Beat Air Force 34-25

## POWER FIVE STANDINGS

ACC			
Atlantic Division			
	W	L	Overall
Clemson	0	0	0-0
Wake Forest	1	1	1-1
Florida State	1	1	1-1
Louisville	1	1	1-1
NC State	1	1	1-1
Boston College	1	2	1-2
Syracuse	1	2	1-2
Coastal Division			
Virginia	0	0	0-0
North Carolina	1	1	1-1
Pittsburgh	1	1	1-1
Duke	1	1	1-1
Virginia Tech	1	1	1-1
Miami	2	2	2-2
Georgia Tech	2	2	2-2

Big 12			
	W	L	Overall
Oklahoma	2	0	2-0
Baylor	2	0	2-0
Texas	2	0	2-0
TCU	1	1	1-1
Iowa State	1	1	1-1
West Virginia	1	1	1-1
Oklahoma State	1	1	1-1
Kansas State	1	1	1-1
Kansas	0	2	0-2

Big Ten			
East			
	W	L	Overall
Ohio State	3	0	3-0
Purdue	2	1	2-1
Michigan	1	1	1-1
Illinois	1	1	1-1
Maryland	1	1	1-1
Indiana	1	1	1-1
Rutgers	0	3	0-3
West			
Minnesota	2	0	2-0
Wisconsin	2	0	2-0
Southern Cal	1	1	1-1
Iowa	1	1	1-1
Illinois	1	1	1-1
Purdue	0	2	0-2
Northwestern	0	3	0-3

Pac-12			
North			
	W	L	Overall
Oregon	2	0	2-0
Stanford	2	0	2-0
Oregon State	1	1	1-1
Utah	1	1	1-1
Washington	1	1	1-1
Washington State	0	2	0-2
South			
Arizona	0	2	0-2
Utah	1	1	1-1
Colorado	1	1	1-1
Arizona State	1	1	1-1
UCLA	1	1	1-1

SEC			
East			
	W	L	Overall
Florida	2	0	2-0
Georgia	2	0	2-0
Alabama	1	1	1-1
South Carolina	1	1	1-1
Tennessee	0	1	0-1
Kentucky	0	2	0-2
Vanderbilt	0	3	0-3
West			
Alabama	2	0	2-0
LSU	1	1	1-1
Auburn	1	1	1-1
Mississippi	1	1	1-1
Texas A&M	1	1	1-1
Mississippi State	0	2	0-2
Arkansas	0	2	0-2



GERALD HERBERG/AP

**LSU quarterback Joe Burrow hands off to running back Clyde Edwards-Helaire during the first half of last week's game against Utah State in Baton Rouge, La. The fifth-ranked Tigers play No. 7 Florida this week.**

## KEY POWER FIVE MATCHUPS

**No. 6 Oklahoma (5-0)**  
**vs. No. 11 Texas (4-1) in Dallas**  
**6 p.m. Saturday CET**  
**AFN-Sports**

**Series record** — Texas leads 62-47-5.

**What's at stake?** — Along with bragging rights and the Golden Hat trophy, the winner of the Red River rivalry game takes a significant step toward a return to the Big 12 championship game — and there is the possibility of a December rematch for the second year in a row.

**Key matchup** — Texas safety B.J. Foster against Oklahoma QB Jalen Hurts. Foster is arguably Texas' most physical tackler in the secondary and he's primed for some collisions with Hurts, who has thrown for 304.6 yards and run for 99.8 yards per game. Foster said Texas wants to make Hurts throw and could be a spy against him turning up field on his own.

**Players to watch** — Oklahoma: WR DeeDee Lamb averages 24.4 yards per catch and has caught a touchdown in seven consecutive games. That streak started in last year's Big 12 title game. He also had a TD against the Longhorns last October during another seven-game TD streak.

**Texas:** Sam Ehlinger has had 391, 386 and 384 total yards in his three games against Oklahoma — the three highest outputs by a Texas quarterback against the Sooners. He scored nine touchdowns (four passing, five rushing) against them in the two games last season.

**Facts & figures** — This is the second year in a row both teams are ranked in the regular-season game, after five years in a row when only Oklahoma was ranked. ... The Sooners have scored at least 34 points in 15 games in a row, the third-longest streak nationally since at least 1980. ... Oklahoma's offense has only six more offensive snaps (324-318) than its opponents, but has outgained them by 1,487 yards (3,219-1,732).

**No. 1 Alabama (5-0)**  
**at No. 24 Texas A&M (3-2)**  
**9:30 p.m. Saturday CET**  
**AFN-Sports2**

**Series record** — Alabama leads 9-2.

**What's at stake?** — Alabama has risen to the top of the poll without facing a ranked team. Now, the Crimson Tide gets their first Top 25 test, on the road. The Aggies could make a huge statement with a win after a disappointing start that includes a 24-10 loss to No. 2 Clemson.

**Key matchup** — Texas A&M's defense against Alabama QB Tua Tagovailoa and his dangerous group of wide receivers. The Aggies are giving up just 17.8 points and 299.8 yards per game. The Tide rank third nationally in passing offense and fourth in scoring offense. Tagovailoa and WR DeVonta Smith are coming off a huge game against Mississippi.

**Players to watch** — Alabama: S Xavier McKinney. The Tide gave up 109 rushing yards to Mississippi quarterback John Rhys Plumlee before an opening day. McKinney made a career-high 13 tackles in that game and leads the team in that category.

**Texas A&M:** QB Kellen Mond. The Aggies have sputtered at times on offense but face a Tide defense that hasn't been nearly as dominant as usual. He'll have to produce if Texas A&M hopes to keep up with an Alabama offense averaging 51.8 points per game.

**Facts & figures** — Alabama has won all four meetings in College Station and has a six-game winning streak over Texas A&M. ... The Aggies beat a top-ranked Tide team 29-24 in 2012. They're only the fifth team since the AP poll started in 1936 to face two No. 1 teams in a season, having already lost 24-10 to then-No. 1 Clemson. Texas A&M also did it in 1970. ... Mond needs just 76 rushing yards to join Johnny Manziel, Reggie McNeal and Stephen McGee as the only Texas A&M players to pass for 5,000-plus yards and rush for 1,000-plus yards in a career.

**No. 7 Florida (6-0)**  
**at No. 5 LSU (5-0)**  
**2 p.m. Sunday CET**  
**AFN-Sports2**

**Series record** — Florida leads 33-29-3.

**What's at stake?** — Both teams are in position to contend for their respective division titles in the SEC and a College Football Playoff berth. While a first loss in a top-10 clash won't necessarily eliminate either team from contention, it'll leave little to no margin for error going forward.

**Key matchup** — LSU's high-scoring spread offense, averaging 57.1 yards and 54.6 points per game, against a Florida pass defense that has a nation's best 12 interceptions, with 11 in its past four games.

**Players to watch** — Florida: S Shawn Davis has three interceptions, including a one-handed snag in a victory over Auburn last week. His other two interceptions helped fuel a comeback victory at Kentucky.

**LSU:** QB Joe Burrow continues to make a case for Heisman Trophy consideration, averaging an SEC-best 372.8 yards passing per game to go with 22 touchdowns passing, which ranks second in the SEC.

**Facts & figures** — The last time each team was ranked in the top 10 when they played one another was in 2015, when then-No. 6 LSU beat No. 8 Florida 35-28 in Tiger Stadium. ... Florida is 4-1 against ranked opponents under second-year coach Dan Mullen, 3-1 against top-10 teams. ... After beating then-No. 7 Auburn last week, the Gators are seeking a second-straight victory over a top 10 opponent for the first time since 2012. ... LSU has won five of its past six against a top 10 opponent. ... The Tigers have scored more than 40 points in each of their first five games for the first time in school history. ... The SEC's top two in yards receiving per game are LSU's Ja'Marr Chase (112.8) and Justin Jefferson (109.4). ... LSU has driven for a touchdown in less than three minutes 26 times this season.

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL



PHOTOS BY KARL B. DEBLAKER/AP

Syracuse's Tommy DeVito, left, avoids the rush of North Carolina State's Alim McNeill, center, during the second half of Thursday's game in Raleigh, N.C. The Wolfpack won 16-10.

# Wolfpack defense gets 8 sacks to edge Orange

BY AARON BEARD  
Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — The sacks kept coming, one after another, for North Carolina State's defense all the way to the finish Thursday night.

The Wolfpack battered Tommy DeVito for eight sacks, the last coming from Larrell Murchison in the final seconds to seal a 16-10 win Thursday night.

The Wolfpack (4-2, 1-1 Atlantic Coast Conference) led all night and by as much as 16-0 in the third quarter before having to come up with a final stop to maintain their hold on the win. Fittingly, it came on the play that the Wolfpack made a habit in this one, with Murchison dragging down DeVito on a third down that left the Orange (3-3, 0-2) frantically trying to get another snap off against a dwindling clock with no timeouts.

"I thought we showed a lot of stamina at the end, getting that sack to close out the game," Wolfpack coach Dave Doeren said. "The defensive staff I thought really put together a great game plan and the kids executed it well."

Going back to an eight-sack effort in the last game against Florida State, N.C. State now has a program-record 16 sacks over consecutive games. That surpassed the previous mark of 14



North Carolina State's Devin Carter, right, makes a catch next to Syracuse's Eric Coley during the first half.

against Virginia and North Carolina in 1982.

That's a pretty good early return on a move to a 3-3-5 defensive scheme, while linebacker Louis Accus also credited defensive coordinator Dave Huxtable. "It's all Coach Hux and his crazy scheming, these blitzes he's drawing up," said Accus, who had three sacks. "Everybody's crossing here, crossing there, and somebody's going to end up open."

## The takeaway

**Syracuse:** The Orange had at least regrouped from lopsided losses to Maryland and then-No. 1 Clemson with blowout wins

against Western Michigan and Holy Cross, though they had been dealing with numerous injury concerns. That included DeVito who left the last game early in the fourth with an upper-body injury — then took a beating in this one behind an offensive line that struggled to block anyone.

**N.C. State:** The Wolfpack emerged from an open date with a new quarterback and plenty of practice reps to fix problems from the losses to West Virginia and Florida State. It was good enough on this night to win, and bring plenty of cover for the Wolfpack's offense that lacked any big-play potential under first-time starting quarterback Bailey Hockman.

## Five things to know

# Florida-LSU heads high-profile games

BY STEVE MEGARGE  
Associated Press

**L**ife as a Southeastern Conference title contender means you have a chance to make a statement every week but rarely get a chance to breathe.

Consider the stretch No. 7 Florida is facing now.

Florida won one matchup of unbeaten teams last week with a 24-13 victory over Auburn that dropped the Tigers from seventh to 12th in the Top 25. Now the Gators get another undefeated team this time on the road against No. 5 LSU under the lights in Baton Rouge.

The Florida-LSU showdown headlines a week full of high-profile pairings. Other matchups of Top 25 teams have No. 6 Oklahoma facing No. 11 Texas, Alabama visiting No. 24 Texas A&M and No. 17 Iowa hosting No. 10 Penn State. And that doesn't even include No. 9 Notre Dame's rivalry renewal with unranked Southern California.

## Game of the week

**Florida (6-0, 3-0 SEC) at LSU (5-0, 1-0)**

LSU has the nation's highest-scoring offense, while Florida offers one of college football's most fearsome defenses. This game could come down to how well Jon Greenard and his Florida teammates pressure LSU quarterback Joe Burrow.

## Heisman watch

A few of the nation's top quarterbacks face their toughest challenges of the season in a week that could narrow down the Heisman Trophy race.

Burrow faces a Florida team that leads all Football Bowl Subdivision teams with 12 interceptions and is tied for third nationally with 26 sacks. Burrow leads the nation in completion percentage (.784) and ranks second in passing yards per game (372.8) and third in passing efficiency.

Oklahoma's Jalen Hurts leads the nation in passing efficiency and has rushed for 499 yards, but he hasn't had a touch more this week against Texas, the first Top 25 opponent on the sixth-ranked Sooners' schedule.

Alabama's Tua Tagovailoa has thrown 23 touchdown passes without an interception this year after finishing second in last season's Heisman balloting. Alabama faces its first-ranked opponent Saturday at Texas A&M.

## Numbers game

**1** — No. 3 Georgia has allowed only one sack all season. The Bulldogs also are the only FBS team that hasn't given up a single touchdown run all year.

**4** — No. 8 Wisconsin, No. 10 Penn State, No. 3 Ohio State and No. 17 Iowa give the Big Ten the nation's four top-scoring defenses. Wisconsin has allowed an FBS-low 5.8 points per game. The Badgers are followed by Penn State (7.4), Iowa (8.8) and Ohio State (8.8).

**6** — No. 19 Wake Forest is seeking its first 6-0 start since 1944 when it hosts Louisville this week. The Demon Deacons started 7-0 in 1944 and went on to finish 8-1. Wake Forest currently is 5-0 for just the fourth time ever, joining the 1944, 1987 and 2006 squads.

**23** — Oklahoma has scored at least one touchdown in 23 consecutive quarters, a streak that started late last season.

**26** — No. 2 Clemson has played an FBS-leading 26 consecutive games without allowing a player to rush for 100 yards. Clemson puts that streak on the line Saturday as it attempts to slow down Florida State's Cam Akers, whose 582 yards rushing rank second in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

## Under the radar

**Hawaii (4-1, 1-0 Mountain West) at No. 14 Boise State (6-0, 2-0):** Hawaii is coming off a 52-3 blowout at Nevada and now faces a major nemesis. Boise State has beaten Hawaii six straight times and has won each of the last five meetings by at least 35 points.

**Wyoming (4-1, 1-0 Mountain West) at San Diego State (4-1, 1-1):** Wyoming ranks 14th nationally in rushing. San Diego State leads all FBS teams in run defense.

**No. 23 Memphis (5-0, 1-0 American Athletic Conference) at Temple (4-1, 1-0):** This game features two talented young running backs in Memphis redshirt freshman Kenneth Gainwell (76 carries, 620 yards, 6 TDs) and Temple true freshman Re'Mahn Davis (84-503-4).

## Hot-seat watch

Southern California coach Clay Helton has plenty at stake Saturday when his Trojans (3-2) visit Notre Dame (4-1).

Helton occupied arguably the hottest seat in college football heading into the season. USC has produced some impressive wins over Utah and Stanford this year while dealing with quarterback injuries, but a loss to Notre Dame would drop the Trojans to the 500 mark at the midway point of the season. That's not good enough at USC.



Florida State running back Cam Akers is second in the Atlantic Coast Conference in rushing with 582 yards.

NFL

Scoreboard

American Conference

	East				
	W	L	T	Pct	PF PA
New England	6	0	0	1.000	150 48
Buffalo	4	1	0	.800	90 70
N.Y. Jets	0	4	0	.000	29 101
Miami	0	4	0	.000	26 163
South					
Houston	3	2	0	.600	131 110
Indianapolis	3	2	0	.600	113 115
Jacksonville	2	3	0	.400	111 118
Tennessee	2	3	0	.400	98 76
North					
Baltimore	3	2	0	.600	161 123
Cleveland	2	3	0	.400	92 122
Pittsburgh	1	4	0	.200	99 114
Cincinnati	0	5	0	.000	80 136
West					
Kansas City	4	0	0	.800	148 113
Oakland	3	2	0	.600	103 123
L.A. Chargers	2	3	0	.400	103 94
Denver	1	4	0	.200	90 106

National Conference

	East				
	W	L	T	Pct	PF PA
Philadelphia	3	2	0	.600	141 111
Dallas	3	2	0	.600	131 90
N.Y. Giants	2	4	0	.333	111 160
Washington	0	5	0	.000	73 151
South					
New Orleans	4	0	0	.800	115 116
Carolina	3	2	0	.600	129 107
Tampa Bay	2	3	0	.400	147 148
Atlanta	1	4	0	.200	102 152
North					
Green Bay	4	0	0	.800	119 93
Detroit	2	1	1	.625	97 95
Chicago	3	2	0	.600	87 69
Minnesota	2	3	0	.400	112 73
West					
San Francisco	4	0	0	1.000	127 57
Seattle	4	1	0	.800	133 118
L.A. Rams	3	2	0	.600	146 134
Arizona	1	3	1	.300	100 138

**Thursday's games**  
 New England vs. N.Y. Giants 14  
**Sunday's games**  
 Carolina vs. Tampa Bay at London  
 Philadelphia at Minnesota  
 New Orleans at Jacksonville  
 Houston at Kansas City  
 Washington at Miami  
 Cincinnati at Baltimore  
 Seattle at Cleveland  
 San Francisco at L.A. Rams  
 Atlanta at Arizona  
 Tennessee at Denver  
 Kansas City at Denver  
**Open:** Buffalo, Indianapolis, Chicago, Oakland

**Monday's games**  
 Detroit at Green Bay  
**Thursday, Oct. 17**  
 Kansas City at Denver  
**Sunday, Oct. 20**  
 Miami at Buffalo  
 Houston at Indianapolis  
 Arizona at N.Y. Giants  
 Oakland at Green Bay  
 L.A. Rams at Atlanta  
 Minnesota at Detroit  
 Jacksonville at Cincinnati  
 San Francisco at Washington  
 L.A. Chargers at Tennessee  
 Baltimore at Seattle  
 New Orleans at Chicago  
 Philadelphia at Dallas  
**Open:** Tampa Bay, Cleveland, Carolina, Pittsburgh  
**Monday, Oct. 21**  
 New England at N.Y. Jets

**Thursday Patriots 35, Giants 14**  
**New York** 0 14 0 0-14  
**New England** 7 14 0 14-35  
**First quarter**  
 NE—Winnovich 16 blocked punt return (Nugent kick), 1:41  
**Second quarter**  
 NE—Balden 1 run (Nugent kick), 7:11  
 NYG—Tate 64 pass from D.Jones (Rosas kick), 5:05  
 NYG—Balden 42 fumble return (Rosas kick), 4:38  
 NE—Brady 1 run (Nugent kick), :36  
**Fourth quarter**  
 NE—Van Noy 22 fumble return (Nugent kick), 8:33  
 NE—Brady 1 run (Nugent kick), 3:49  
**Final Score** 10 0 27  
 Total Net Yards 213 427  
 Rushes-yards 16-52 34-114  
 Passing 161 313  
 Punt Returns 0-0 1-10  
 Kick Returns 2-53 1-26  
 Interceptions Ret. 1-62 3-33  
 Comp-Att-Int 15-31-3 21-41-1  
 Sacks-Yards Lost 0 0 3-21  
 Punts 6-32.7 3-40.7  
 Fumbles-Lost 0 0 0-0  
 Penalties-Yards 5-40 3-20  
 Time of Possession 20:24 39:36

**INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS**  
**RUSHING**—New York, Hilliman 11-38, 61 yards; Perry 2-10, 12 yards; Michel 22-86, Bolden 3-23, Brady 7-6, White 2-10.  
**PASSING**—New York, D.Jones 15-31-3-161. New England, Brady 31-41-1-334.  
**RECEIVING**—New York, Tate 6-102, Clayton 3-32, Ellison 3-30, Hilliman 2-21, Perry 1-9, D.Jones 1-9. New England, Edelman 9-113, White 9-46, Meyers 4-54, Olczewski 2-34, Izzeo 2-31, Michel 2-27, Bolden 2-22.  
**MISSSED FIELD GOALS**—New England, Nugent 4/0.



New England Patriots linebacker Jamie Collins, front, forces a fumble as he tackles New York Giants running back Jon Hilliman during the second half of Thursday's game in Foxborough, Mass. The Patriots forced four turnovers in their 35-14 victory. **ELISE AMENDOLA/AP**

# Patriots put away Giants

## Brady throws two TD passes, New England stays unbeaten

By KYLE HIGHTOWER  
*Associated Press*  
 FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Under coach Bill Belichick, the Patriots have made a habit of besting young quarterbacks. They can add Giants rookie Daniel Jones to that list.

Tom Brady had two touchdown runs and moved ahead of Peyton Manning for second place on the NFL's all-time passing yards list as a 35-14 victory over the New York Giants on Thursday night.

The reigning Super Bowl champion Patriots also returned a blocked punt for a touchdown and forced four turnovers, including a fumble return for a score, to move to 6-0 for the first time since time since 2015. Brady finished 31-for-41 for 334 yards and an interception. Julian Edelman had his second straight 100-yard receiving game, catching nine passes for 113 yards. Jones had three interceptions on the night, finishing 15-for-31 for 161 yards.

New England has now won 19

straight games against a first- or second-year quarterback, the longest such streak in NFL history. "It was kind of an odd game, anytime you get three scores in the game that are non-offensive touchdowns," Belichick said. "That's kind of a season's worth of what it all happened in one game."

The Patriots did it without running back Rex Burkhead, who missed his second straight game with a foot injury. Receiver Philip Dorsett was inactive with a hamstring injury. During the game, receiver Josh Gordon injured his left knee trying to make a tackle after a fumble recovery. "Guys just kind of filled in," Brady said. "We knew we weren't gonna have Phillip tonight. ... Then Josh got hurt. Just kind of dealing with kind of what every one else deals with this time of year. Lots of injuries and attrition and so forth. But was a good win."

Despite struggling to move the ball for most of the game, New York (2-4) had the ball trailing 21-14 with 8:43 left in the fourth quarter.



Patriots quarterback Tom Brady sneaks across the goal line for a touchdown during the second half. **CHARLES KRUPA/AP**

Jones completed a pass to running back Jon Hilliman, who was hit in the backfield by Patriots linebacker Jamie Collins, forcing a fumble. Kyle Van Noy recovered, sprinted 22 yards and stretched the ball to the pylon for the touchdown. It was part of an error-filled game by both offenses. Like the Patriots, the Giants were missing some of their playmakers. Running back Saquon Barkley sat a third straight game because of a sprained right ankle, tight end Evan Engram sat with a

knee injury and receiver Sterling Shepard was in the concussion protocol. As a result, both teams had issues executing and hanging onto the ball. Jones was confused at times by the Patriots' coverages, contributing to his turnovers. And, Brady, in addition to his interception, had a fumble that was returned for a touchdown. "I didn't play well by any means," Jones said. "I don't think it was overwhelming. I just made bad plays."

## SPORTS

## Winning habits

Brady, Patriots remain undefeated with victory over Giants » **Page 31**



## AMERICAN LEAGUE DIVISION SERIES

# Ace in the hole

Astros get another playoff masterpiece from Cole in decisive Game 5 to set up showdown with Yanks

By KRISTIE RIEKEN  
Associated Press

**G**HOUSTON errit Cole pitched yet another playoff masterpiece and the Houston Astros jumped to a quick lead, turning

back the Tampa Bay Rays 6-1 Thursday night in Game 5 to set up a titanic showdown with the New York Yankees in the AL Championship Series.

After fellow aces Zack Greinke and Justin Verlander were unable to close out the scrappy Rays on the road, Cole made sure Houston moved on. Given

a 4-0 cushion in the first inning, he dominated through the eighth in the decisive game of the AL Division Series, striking out 10 and allowing just two hits.

On deck, the heavyweight matchup so many fans wanted to see: Jose

**SEE ACE ON PAGE 27**



The Houston Astros' Gerrit Cole  
ERIC CHRISTIAN SMITH/AP

**Inside:** Capsule preview of NL Championship Series between Cardinals and Nationals, Page 27