‘How is this OK?’ Sex assault case haunts Air Force mothers

To the mothers, the 13-year-old boy appeared largely unsupervised as he roamed among the clusters of townhomes on the U.S. Air Force base on Okinawa. It would have been unremarkable — the neighborhood was full of kids — except that young girls were starting to report the boy had led them from play and molested them.

“We were like, ‘How is this OK?’” the mother of one 5-year-old girl told The Associated Press, which is granting her anonymity to protect her daughter’s privacy. She locked her kids inside.

The first girl to report had to wait six days for officials on the largest Air Force installation in the Pacific to provide counseling. The mothers didn’t feel much urgency from Air Force criminal investigators either. They told the families they’d waited 13 days to meet the boy’s father.

By then, mothers had identified five girls, ages 2 to 7, who said the boy had taken them to some trees or a playground or his house. Another five kids would allege abuse soon after.

“We come here, and it takes the worst cases that you can imagine to find out that you don’t have the services to support your children,” the 5-year-old’s mother said. “There’s a feeling of complete distrust.”

This was not supposed to happen again.

SEE ASSAULT ON PAGE 10
Military parts supplier TransDigm draws scrutiny over prices

The Pentagon and Lockheed Martin have reached a tentative agreement on procurement of 470 new F-35 fighter jets for the Air Force, Navy and Marines and allied militaries, the Defense Department announced Tuesday. A finalized contract award is expected in August, officials said.

If the massive order for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighters is finalized it will be the largest procurement in the history of the Department of Defense. Its value is estimated at $34 billion.

The $34 billion agreement “marks the largest procurement in the history of the Department and provides a best value for our warfighter and taxpayer, incentivizes industry to continuously improve their performance and achieve the lowest F-35 unit prices per aircraft to date,” F-35 program executive Vice Admiral Mathias Winter said in an email to reporters.

Lockheed Martin program general manager Greg Ulmer touted the company’s cost savings in the most recent contract, which he chalked up to “smart acquisition strategies and a relentless focus on cost reduction.”

“Beating our long-stated goal and delivering an F-35A below $80 million — is a testament to our joint government and industry team — and we look forward to working with the Joint Program Office to finalize the agreement,” Ulmer wrote in an email.

Both Lockheed and the Defense Department are trying to address decades of criticism from congressional war hawks and doves alike who have characterized the F-35 program as too costly.

Almost since its inception, the F-35 has been a lighting rod for criticism around wasteful defense spending. And it has been a financial bedrock for Lockheed, propelling the Bethesda, Md.-based manufacturer to a dominant position atop the defense contracting hierarchy.

Proponents argue that the plane’s stealthiness, advanced sensors, targeting capabilities and extended flying range would make it an important asset in a war against a so-called “near-peer” competitor such as Russia or China.

But it is also the single most expensive military program in U.S. history by a wide margin, leading some to worry it will starve the Pentagon of resources it needs for other missions. The late Sen. John McCain called the F-35 a “poster child for acquisition malpractice,” a “scandal” and a “tragedy” at different points during his tenure as Senate Armed Services Committee chairman.

President Donald Trump also took an interest in the plane early in his presidency when he criticized its “tremendous cost and cost overruns,” and asked the Pentagon to consider buying one of Boeing’s F-18 jets instead. In early 2017 the Pentagon awarded Lockheed a contract that shaved roughly $728 million in costs — an amount roughly equivalent to cost reductions already in place during the Obama administration.

Even Pat Shanahan, a former Boeing executive who is the acting secretary of defense, has chided the plane.

“The F-35, unequivocally, I can say, has a lot of opportunity for performance,” Shanahan said in response to questions about whether he is biased toward his former employer.

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WIN!
UP TO FOUR FREE TICKETS TO THE STATES AND A FREE 2-NIGHT STAY AT EDWEISS LODGE AND RESORT!
Single-soldier tours in Europe, Japan extended

By John Vanderhey Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Single-soldier tours in Europe and Japan will increase from two to three years in a move designed to save money and boost the combat readiness of overseas units, the Army said Tuesday.

The policy change took effect June 1 and applies to all single soldiers who receive unaccompanied travel orders after June 14, the Army said in a statement. The change will affect 3,000 to 5,000 soldiers each year.

“The Army has no plan to expand this policy to other locations at this time,” the service said.

The Army is aiming to reduce turnover and improve unit stability with the move. The change will also relieve pressure on the Army’s logistical network, which was overwhelmed with permanent change of station moves that frustrated many military families waiting for household goods shipments.

For single soldiers, longer tours could hurt morale for those uncomfortable abroad or be an opportunity for soldiers who embrace being overseas.

“The Army is in the midst of continuous improvements to Army leadership, modernization and reform that decide on matters regarding our Army into the future,” he said in a prepared statement.

Grinston, 51, will serve as the new chief of a reformed military campaign in Somalia could set the stage for economic development in the country, which has been wrecked by years of lawlessness and violence, U.S. officials said.

In high-level talks in Mogadishu on Tuesday, U.S. Africa Command’s Gen. Thomas D. Waldhauser and U.S. Ambassador to Somalia Donald Yamamoto discussed how to keep momentum “moving forward” in the Horn of Africa country, which has been in disarray for more than 20 years.

“We discussed the way ahead and … how we (the United States) can best make a contribution,” Waldhauser told Stars and Stripes.

“It’s never a straight line in Somalia. There’s always one step forward, two steps back, but there’s been some fairly good progress in the last few months with regard to taking back some territory al-Shabab had once held,” he said.

The U.S. has about 500 troops in the country to help battle the al-Qaida-linked, homegrown terrorist group, which has an estimated 5,000 fighters and has been vying for control of the country for more than a decade.

Efforts to stabilize the country have been complicated by the clan-based society’s skepticism of the central government, a defense official said Wednesday.

Somalia, which consistently ranks among the most corrupt countries in the world, also has a history of resisting outside efforts to impose Western-style order, security analysts have long contended. Despite U.S.-supported military successes against them, al-Shabab and more recently Islamic State in Somalia have proven resilient.

Defense officials spoke about progress as “incremental” in the country, which is slightly smaller than the state of Texas and filled with swaths of ungoverned territory.

But there are encouraging signs of progress, Waldhauser said, citing a recent Somali-led offensive, alongside an international partner force known as the African Union Mission to Somalia, or AMISOM, to back take militant-held territory.

“AMISOM partner forces and the Somali National Army had been on a little bit of a campaign for the last couple of months,” Waldhauser said. “They’ve been able to hold ground.”

Waldhauser’s visit Tuesday came after the United Nations Security Council last month resolved to extend the AU mission for one year while withdrawing 1,000 troops from the country and limiting the contingent to about 19,500 troops as part of a plan to gradually transition security responsibilities to Somali forces by December 2021.

It’s unlikely government forces will be able to maintain battlefield gains alone by then, defense officials said, but some form of international support is expected for much of the next decade.

The key to holding ground isn’t about military might, they said, but about making life better for the residents of those areas. The government’s ability to provide services helps reassure locals who have lived under al-Shabab’s influence for years and is necessary to sway militants to peel off from al-Shabab and reconcile with the government, they said.

Officials also pointed to the return of a permanent U.S. diplomatic mission to Somalia in December as another positive development in the country. It’s the first mission since the embassy closed in 1991 following the ouster of President Mohamed Siad Barre, which left Somalia without a central government.

Yamamoto’s presence in the country has been a “tremendous help,” Waldhauser said.

He and Yamamoto met Tuesday in Mogadishu with Prime Minister Hassan Ali Khaire and Somali defense officials. Following the meeting, Yamamoto stressed that improved security and stability in Somalia affects the entire region.

“It also means that the people of Somalia will be able to better focus on building a prosperous future,” he said in an AFRICOM statement.

Courtesy of U.S. Africa Command

AFRICOM chief sees signs of progress in Somalia

By Chad Garland Stars and Stripes

CAMP LEMONNIER, Djibouti — Continued success by the American-backed military campaign in Somalia could set the stage for economic development in the country, which has been complicated by the clan-based society’s skepticism of the central government, Grinston said.

Waldhauser’s visit Tuesday came after high-level talks in Mogadishu on Tuesday, U.S. Africa Command’s Gen. Thomas D. Waldhauser and U.S. Ambassador to Somalia Donald Yamamoto discussed how to keep momentum “moving forward” in the Horn of Africa country, which has been in disarray for more than 20 years.

Army families, according to the service’s 2017 Oahu survey, have a problem with change, which improved security and stability in Somalia affects the entire region.

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Garinston was the senior enlisted leader for U.S. Army Forces Command at Fort Bragg, N.C. He will be sworn in to his new role at the Pentagon on Aug. 18, according to the Army.

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey, who has been in his position since 2015, is retiring.


“The Army is in the midst of a reformation and we have a great choice to carry on our readiness, modernization and reform efforts,” Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley called Grinston a “world class leader who stands out” among the other noncommissioned officers. “He is the right noncommissioned officer to lead our Army into the future,” he said in a prepared statement.


Garinston was the senior enlisted leader for the 1st Infantry Division when it supported Operation Inherent Resolve from October 2014 to June 2015, according to the Army.

Garinston earned a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from University of Maryland University College, which is based in Laurel, Md. His military awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, two Legion of Merit medals and five Bronze Star medals, including two with combat “V” devices.

Garinston has also earned the Ranger tab, the Master Parachutist badge, the Air Assault badge, the Drill Sergeant Identification badge and the Combat Action Badge.

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Fort Bragg NCO named 16th sergeant major of the Army

By Caitlin M. Kenney Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Grinston, who has been in the service for more than 30 years, has been selected to be the 16th sergeant major of the Army, the service announced Tuesday.

Grinston is the senior enlisted leader for U.S. Army Forces Command at Fort Bragg, N.C. He will be sworn in to his new role at the Pentagon on Aug. 18, according to the Army.

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey, who has been in his position since 2015, is retiring.

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Grinston, 51, will serve as the personal adviser to the Army’s chief of staff regarding issues affecting enlisted soldiers. He will also recommend “quality-of-life improvements to Army leadership” and sit on several councils that decide on matters regarding Army families, according to the Army statement. Grinston and his wife, Alexandra, have two daughters.

“I am honored to have the opportunity to continue to serve the great soldiers and families of the United States Army,” Grinston said in the prepared statement.

The Jasper, Ala., native enlisted in the Army in 1987 to serve as an artilleryman, according to his official Army biography. His deployments include Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, as well as Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

He was also the senior enlisted leader for the 1st Infantry Division when it supported Operation Inherent Resolve from October 2014 to June 2015, according to the Army.

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Army: ROTC cadet ran pro-Nazi Twitter account

BY CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

An ROTC cadet accused of operating a pro-Nazi and white supremacist Twitter account while at a North Carolina college has admitted the account was hers after enrolling in ROTC at a second school in the state, U.S. Army Cadet Command officials said this week.

During an investigation into “online behavior that is not consistent with Army values,” Cadet Martha Gerdes, of the University of North Carolina-Charlotte, admitted to posting anti-Semitic, racist and anti-gay statements on Twitter, Maj. Dean Carter, a command spokesman, said Monday in an emailed statement.

“The activities conducted by Ms. Gerdes are inconsistent with the high moral expectations of a future Army officer,” Carter said.

Gerdes had been enrolled at Davidson College, which is north of Charlotte, in the fall when her link to the Twitter account was uncovered by online activists, prompting a school investigation in November.

The allegations against Gerdes, originating from the Carolina Workers Collective, a group that opposes white supremacy and capitalism, caught the attention of U.S. Army WTF! Moments, which notified Army ROTC and the Army’s Training and Doctrine Command.

In response, Army ROTC said officials were looking into it and would “take action as appropriate.”

Maj. Gen. John R. Evans, who leads Cadet Command, initially claimed on Twitter that Gerdes had been cleared of responsibility after what he thought was a “thorough and complete” investigation, but he reversed his statement to say that police in Davidson, N.C., were investigating the matter.

Gerdes and another student accused of running a different racist Twitter account left campus shortly after the tweets came to light amid the school investigation and student demonstrations, Davidson College spokesman Jay Pfeifer said at the time.

Last month, UNC Charlotte confirmed that a student matching Gerdes’ name had enrolled at the school. Gerdes could not be reached for comment.

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FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — A Hawaii-based lance corporal is being kicked out of the Marine Corps for advocating a white supremacist ideology, the Marine Corps said Tuesday.

Lance Cpl. Mason Edward Mead will be discharged under other-than-honorable conditions, the service said in a statement.

Mead, of 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, is being held in the brig at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, said Capt. Eric Abrams, a Marine Corps spokesman. Mead is being processed for discharge, pending completion of final administrative and medical requirements, the statement said.

The Marine Corps began investigating Mead after media reports in February alleged he had tweeted racist and pro-Nazi messages, one of which included a photo of TNT cylinders formed into the shape of a swastika. Another tweet included an image of a man posing in front of Mount Fuji containing the caption “ching chong,” along with a series of emojis that include a Japanese flag, a dog and a knife and fork.

A comment under the post by Mead’s account said, “excited to try Japanese teriyaki Doberman!!!”

In lieu of a trial, Mead admitted guilt May 7 to an Article 92 charge, which constitutes a failure to obey an order or regulation, in this case the Marine Corps Prohibited Activities and Conduct Prevention and Response Policy, Abrams said.

That policy defines and prohibits activities that are inconsistent with the Marine Corps ethos, he said.

Under the policy, the service prohibits certain dissident and protest activity, including activities related to white supremacy, he said.

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BY WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

Then-Pvt. Mead measures buffer material for a grape charge during demolition training at Camp Lejeune, N.C., in 2018. This photo of blocks of TNT in the shape of a swastika was posted to Lance Cpl. Mason Edward Mead’s Twitter account.

Twitter

This photo of blocks of TNT in the shape of a swastika was posted to Lance Cpl. Mason Edward Mead’s Twitter account.

Twitter

Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

Marine is ousted over racist, pro-Nazi tweets

By Wyatt Olson
Stars and Stripes

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Twitter

Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

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Twitter

Military
Monument to troop supporters rededicated at Camp Humphreys

By Matthew Keeler
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — The Korean Service Corps Battalion recently unveiled its memorial monument at a rededication ceremony after relocating the solid stone tribute south to its new headquarters at Camp Humphreys.

In 1985, the monument was established on Camp Kim, a small base just outside the gates of Yongsan Garrison in Seoul. Camp Kim closed in 2018 and was converted into a center for visitors to learn about base history at the new Yongsan Park Gallery.

“Not long after the Korean War broke out, Lt. Gen. Walton A. Walker quickly reached the conclusion that combat troops needed help in critical areas of logistics,” Eighth Army commander Lt. Gen. Michael Bills said in his dedication speech Sunday.

On July 25, 1950, South Korean President Syngman Rhee established what would become the Korean Service Corps to provide critically needed support to the beleaguered U.S. forces in Korea, Bills said. Four U.S. divisions, driven south by North Korean troops, were holding a perimeter that month around the port city known today as Busan.

“This monument was a labor of love by the KSC to honor the sacrifices of their fellow members,” Bills said. “The monument was not purchased or donated; it took over seven years of dedicated service to complete. The stone itself was mined from Baegun Mountain to symbolize the loss of KSC lives at that very mountain during the Chinese spring offensive of 1951.”

The mountain in Pocheon was the scene of a bloody battle where many corps members were wounded or lost their lives while hauling ammunition to troops and evacuating casualties.

Under the command of Lt. Col. John Cooper, the Korean Service Corps is the largest battalion in the U.S. Army, with 2,188 mission-essential Korean nationals whose ranks, if given the order, can swell to more than 21,000 personnel to provide logistical support to forces throughout the peninsula.

Members of the paramilitary unit operate under the “Fight Tonight” umbrella, a phrase frequently heard from command teams to instill discipline and readiness in servicemembers operating in the fragile region. All corps members are issued a set of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear protective equipment, which includes an M50 protective mask.

Corps members regularly train according to Army Warrior Tasks standards, including first aid, Cooper said. Each of the battalion’s 18 companies also strive to maintain 20 percent of its ranks as certified combat lifesavers.

That training proved useful in June 2013 when service corps mechanics Yi Won Chik and Kwak Myong Chon heard a soldier, Pfc. Kimberly Garland, collapse near a restroom at Camp Stanley. Both men quickly reacted and Kwak performed CPR after determining that Garland was not breathing while Yi ordered a Korean soldier with the U.S. Army to call 911.

Yi credited his annual CPR training for his knowing how to react and handle the situation.

“Many people don’t know what a KSC is or does,” Cooper said during his speech. “Korean Service Corps contributions aren’t taught in schools. To the public, KSCs faded into history. But not anymore; today we honor the unsung heroes of the Korean War because we owe them.

“We must never forget the contributions of the Korean Service Corps,” he added.
Carter shares lessons learned at the Pentagon

By Seth Robson
Stars and Stripes

Reining in cost overruns on the F-35 Lightning II stealth fighter, planning to defeat Islamic State in Iraq and Syria and responding to Beijing’s territorial claims in the South China Sea were all part of former Defense Secretary Ash Carter’s two years at the helm of America’s largest enterprise — the Department of Defense.

The backstories behind some of the biggest issues faced by the department during Carter’s tenure, from February 2015 to January 2017, are told in “Inside the Five-Sided Box: Lessons from a Lifetime of Leadership in the Pentagon,” which he discussed in an interview coinciding with the book’s release Tuesday.

A section of the book deals with the F-35, which, at a projected cost of more than $428 billion, is the Pentagon’s most expensive weapons program ever. The F-35 “was in deep trouble,” Carter wrote of problems he started dealing with as undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics in 2009. “It was costing twice as much to design and develop as planned, projected manufacturing costs had also doubled, and the schedule was slipping every year,” he wrote.

“It was such an embarrassment that I was afraid it wasn’t going to survive politically,” Carter told Stars and Stripes. “That would have left three of our services, as well as a lot of allies, without a next-generation tactical fighter aircraft.”

Carter’s book details the steps he took to improve management of the F-35 program, which included replacing its manager and a threat to manufacturer Lockheed Martin that the department might not buy any of its jets. “It’s the most ambitious airplane and the largest number of airplanes,” he said. “These are generation five airplanes and there are 2,443 of them. The costs have come down and it is meeting the objectives that were set for it.”

The F-35 will almost surely be the last generation of tactical fighter developed, as changes to battlefield technology are expected to make such aircraft increasingly vulnerable in decades to come, Carter says in the book.

“Whatever replaces the tactical fighter in warfare is likely to be even more advanced and complex, representing an equally daunting acquisition and management challenge,” he wrote.

‘Winning the peace’

The fight against Islamic State in Iraq and Syria was another big part of Carter’s tenure as defense secretary. He said he never doubted that the group would be defeated — the extremists were ejected from their last stronghold in Syria in March. But he said he still worries about “winning the peace.”

To that end, “... the U.S. shouldn’t be signaling, either in Iraq or Afghanistan, that it intends to withdraw its influence or its remaining troops,” he told Stars and Stripes. Carter also said he has found himself going to troops at sea or in war zones. The messages he gave them stressed the importance of their missions and let them know “that the country is behind them and the leadership is behind them.”

A section in his book on dealing with the media praises The Associated Press, Reuters and some other major newspapers and television networks but takes issue with “would-be scandal mongers” in search of stories to sensationalize.

“It often seemed as if half the press corps was trying to outdo one another in the cleverness of their ‘gotcha’ questions,” he says in the book.

News outlets cutting back their war zone coverage has led to reports by local stringers who are often biased toward some local faction with a slanted view of regional politics, he wrote.

Carter also criticized the lack of reporting by the U.S. media about success in combat, something he said would have made headlines in the past.

“So when things were going well ... there were almost no stories telling of Iraqi forces gathering strength and courage with the support of American troops,” he wrote. “On those days, the papers would simply be devoid of war news. Only when the inevitable setbacks occurred did the coverage resume.”

Carter wrote about the importance and value of America’s alliances around the world but added: “There’s truth in (President Donald) Trump’s complaints that some of our alliances — our NATO partners, for example — don’t contribute their full share to the project of joint defense. Every recent U.S. administration has called our allies to task on this score.”

Serious challenges

The book also addresses the challenges posed by China, Russia, Iran, North Korea and terrorism.

The rebalance of U.S. military forces to the Pacific, undertaken during Carter’s tenure, has continued, as have Chinese efforts to claim territory in the South China Sea.

There needs to be pressure on Beijing to conform to international norms, not just from the U.S., but from other nations in Asia, he told Stars and Stripes.

Tariffs are one way of confronting China, he said before adding that there are other tools that can be used. Not joining the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which links several of America’s Pacific friends and allies, is a mistake, Carter said.

“It’s in our interests to be aligned with that bloc. It was a way to combine with the rest of Asia to create a trading system,” he said. “If you don’t do that, you leave the battlefield to China and the other nations.”

Summit meetings between Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un haven’t led anywhere yet. That’s not surprising, he said, given that other negotiating efforts dating to the 1980s never got far.

Carter said he focused on making sure U.S. missile defense was a step ahead of North Korean capabilities and letting the North Koreans know that, if they started a war, they would lose.

A hawk in his stance on Iran, Carter said he thought the shelved deal to prevent that nation from developing nuclear weapons had been fine if it was obeyed. However, he added that he had told Defense Department leaders not to change their position on Iran because of the deal.

‘It’s not about me’

Carter’s book also covers weapons procurement, manpower, recruitment, retention, pay and benefits. It was written for servicemembers and civilian Defense Department employees.

The official portrait of former Defense Secretary Ash Carter is hung last year at the Pentagon. Carter, who served as the 25th defense secretary from February 2015 until January 2017, has written a book that he says is for servicemembers and civilian Defense Department employees.

“I hope there are some ... who read it and decide that public service and especially military service is a noble way to spend their lives.”

Ash Carter

ashcarterbook.com

“I hope there are some young people who read it and decide that public service and especially military service is a noble way to spend their lives,” he said.

ashcarterbook.com

Twitter: @SethRobson1

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MILITARY

Poland: Additional troops would come from other bases in Europe, Trump says

FROM FRONT PAGE

“Poland is going to build a phenomenal facility in a beautiful location,” Trump said at the White House. “The facility itself will be world class.”

Last year, Duda said Poland was willing to spend up to $2 billion for a U.S. base and suggested calling it “Fort Trump.”

Coinciding with the troop announcement, Trump said Poland has ordered about 35 “brand new” F-35 fighters from the U.S., a formation of which was set to fly over Washington for Duda’s visit. “I congratulate you on that (purchase),” Trump told Duda. “It means you have good taste.”

Although details about the looming troop movement in Europe remain unclear, Trump has criticized Germany for missing a NATO spending benchmark that calls for dedicating 2% of gross domestic product to defense. “Germany is not living up to what they should be doing; but Poland is paying the max,” Trump said. Trump said the roughly 52,000 troops in Germany have been there “a long, long time.” Official military figures estimate about 35,000 troops in the country.

Trump also criticized Berlin for a natural gas line deal with Russia. “We are protecting Germany from Russia and Russia is getting billions and billions (of dollars),” Trump said.

Trump’s comments on how many troops will be headed for Poland are at odds with what administration officials said Tuesday, when a U.S. official told reporters that an additional 1,000 troops would head to Poland. There already are about 4,500 American troops in Poland on a rotational basis, and the additional 1,000 servicemembers were to be sent to “enhance mutual interoperability” between the two militaries, the official said.

“We believe it’s going to significantly enhance our military-to-military relationship but also enhance the defense and deterrence posture in Europe … and our commitment to NATO,” a senior White House official said ahead of the announcement during a conference call with reporters.

Trump’s comments Wednesday highlight confusion within the administration about the direction of the military’s force posture in Europe. In February, the U.S. ambassador to NATO, Kay Bailey Hutchison, said American forces wouldn’t be pulled out of Germany if the U.S. expands in Poland. “It would not be at the expense of Germany,” Hutchison told reporters at the time.

Since Poland suggested building a “Fort Trump” there has been a debate among security analysts and military officials about the merits of adding significantly more troops. Critics argue that deploying large numbers of ground forces would lead to an escalation with Russia and cause divisions among allies like France and Germany, which see such a move as overly provocative. Supporters say Moscow’s decision to rewrite the map of Ukraine with its 2014 annexation of Crimea justifies a larger NATO force in Poland to deter Russian military adventurism.

Trump did not elaborate on the types of units that could mobilize. However, U.S. officials have said they are likely to be weighted toward logistics specialties.

The additional troops in Poland “would potentially focus on providing additional defense and deterrence capabilities in Poland including training, advisers, ISR [intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance] and sustainment support,” the official said ahead of Trump’s announcement.

From The Associated Press

Poland: Additional troops would come from other bases in Europe, Trump says

TRIBE PLANS LAWSUIT OVER SEWAGE SPILLS BY NAVY

BREMERTON, Wash. — The Suquamish Tribe said it plans to sue the Navy over sewage spills that they say have discharged “hundreds of thousands of gallons of untreated sewage” into local waters over the last five years.

The Kitsap Sun reported the tribe announced Tuesday that it is giving military officials 60 days’ notice of its intent to file a lawsuit under the Clean Water Act, which prohibits discharging pollutants without a permit.

Naval Base Kitsap spokesman Jake Chapelle said the Navy is aware of the notice and cannot comment on pending litigation. A spokesman for the Department of Justice, which represents the Navy, also declined comment.

FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Donald Trump shakes hands with Polish President Andrzej Duda in the White House on Wednesday.

Stars and Stripes reporter Caitlin M. Kenney contributed to this report.

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ADDITIONAL RULES APPLY. CONTEST ENDS 14 JUNE.
Shanahan offers political reminder

By Lolita C. Baldor
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The meeting between acting Defense Secretary Pat Shanahan and his Chinese counterpart began with all the hallmarks of a routine staged session between two uneasy rivals.

First came the posed photo, as the two shared a book with broad smiles in front of their nations’ flags, and then they moved quickly into the hotel conference room, surrounded by staff. There, Shanahan presented Chinese Defense Minister Wei Fenghe with a gift.

But what at first glance looked like a coffee table book was actually 32 pages of photographs and satellite images of North Korean ships getting and delivering shipments of oil. Many of the photos are stamped with dates, times, locations and descriptions and, according to officials, represent proof North Korea is violating economic sanctions.

A service member wears a patch that says “Make Aircrew Great Again” while listening to President Donald Trump speak to troops aboard the USS Wasp last month. The acting defense secretary has issued a reminder to keep politics out of the military.

A servicemember wears a patch that says “Make Aircrew Great Again” while listening to President Donald Trump speak to troops aboard the USS Wasp last month. The acting defense secretary has issued a reminder to keep politics out of the military.

**Ex-Navy worker pleads guilty in child porn case**

BALTIMORE — A 35-year-old Maryland man who is a former employee of the U.S. Navy has pleaded guilty to child pornography offenses.

Federal prosecutors said Spencer Steckman pleaded guilty on Tuesday and will be sentenced in December. The charge stems from an investigation into Steckman’s transportation and possession of child pornography.

Under the Hanford option, the partially dismantled ship would be sent to the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton, Wash. The reactor destruction process would then be sent by barge up the Columbia River to reach the Hanford site in Richland.

A public comment period on the scope of the environmental study is still waiting to be confirmed. The process is scheduled to last through July 15.

The carrier is currently at a shipyard in Virginia.

**Navy examines site for carrier’s nuke reactors**

RICHLAND, Wash. — The U.S. Navy is launching a new study to examine whether to dispose of reactor compartments from its first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier at a site in Washington state.

The Tri-City Herald reported Monday that the Navy is considering the Hanford Nuclear Reservation as well as commercial alternatives to dispose of defense-related compartments from the decommissioned USS Enterprise.

Navy officials in Richland, Wash., are working on preparing the environment for a potential nuclear reactor at the site.

**2 divers cited for saving motorist from icy pond**

GROTON, Conn. — Two Navy divers are being presented with the Navy and Marine Corps Medal on Tuesday for rescuing a motorist from an icy pond in Maine.

Divers John McLeod, of Wiscasset, and Liam Thompson of Parhiala Jr., of Salem, N.H., are going to receive the awards from Vice Adm. Charles “Chad” Richards, commander of submarine forces, on Wednesday at the Navy submarine base in Groton.

McLeod and Thompson were driving on Route 17 near Rockport, Maine, when a car swerved off the road and fell into a pond before landing in the partially frozen Chickawaukee Pond.

Officials said both jumped into the pond to save the motorist on March 23, 2018. McLeod brought the unconscious occupant to shore and Parhiala made sure there were no others in the car.
Bill extends maternity leave to Guard, reserves

By Bryan Lowry

McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The same week in December that Briell Zweygardt is due to give birth to her first child, she’s also scheduled to report to McConnell Air Force Base in Wichita, Kan., for drills. Zweygardt, 25, is a second lieutenant in the Kansas Air National Guard, and like her fellow guardsmen in the National Guard or military reserves, she’ll face a difficult choice when her child is born. If she takes time off from her monthly guard duties to care for her child, she’ll lose out on pay and points toward her retirement.

“I have actually seen women bring their newborns to drill because they didn’t want to miss,” said Zweygardt, who lives in Wamego.

In 2016, the U.S. Department of Defense enacted a 12-week maternity leave policy to cover active-duty personnel, but the policy did not cover women in the National Guard or military reserves. They can still be penalized for taking time off to care for their newborn children.

Sen. Jerry Moran, R-Kan., has introduced legislation that will close that loophole and guarantee 12 weeks of paid maternity leave for female guardsmen and reservists.

“Roughly 150,000 women nationally serve in either the Guard or reserves, according to Moran. That includes 661 women in the Kansas Army National Guard. The Mothers of Military Service Leave Act — or MOMS Leave Act — would ensure that those servicewomen don’t lose out on credits toward their retirement for taking maternity leave.”

Sen. Jerry Moran, R-Kan., that would enable women in the Guard to take maternity leave without losing retirement credits. Harrison is pregnant with her second child.

“Women who serve our country should not be inadvertently penalized for having a child, nor should they be expected to return to drill duties in the weeks following childbirth,” Moran said last month when he announced the bill.

In an interview, Moran said the issue was first brought to his attention by an Army fellow working in his office.

“I can’t figure out any reason that distinction makes any sense. If it’s the right thing to do for active-duty military, it’s the right thing to do for the Guard and reserves,” Moran said in a phone call Tuesday. “In an all volunteer, military, it matters what the benefits are.

MORAN is the only Republican to sign on to the legislation and it was introduced in February as an amendment.

It’s a bipartisan effort that was co-sponsored by 12 Senate and 13 House Democrats as well. Harrison praised Moran’s effort to remove reservists and female guardsmen from the stigmas of maternity leave.

“Sen. Jerry Moran introduced legislation that will close a loophole in federal policy and give women serving in the National Guard the same benefits as active-duty military,” Harrison said in a written statement.

Sen. Scott婕en, D-Minn., that would allow parents of either gender to take maternity leave.

The bill would also prohibit any defense spending in the annual Pentagon policy bill, a marathon session that is expected to extend into the early morning hours Thursday.

The chairman’s mark is the Washington Democrat’s portion of the massive defense authorization bill — the super partisan fights over Guantanamo, nuclear weapons and the border wall. It says that on President Donald Trump’s proposed Space Force, an issue that Smith said Monday would likely find its way in the bill through a bipartisan amendment.

The bill, which authorizes $733 billion in new defense spending, would disallow new detainees from Guam at Guantanamo, including American citizens. The bill would also explicitly disallow new detainees from being transferred to Cuba. It puts a “blanket” ban on the Pentagon using its funds to construct a wall, fence or physical barrier. It also would not authorize any money to backfill fiscal 2019 military construction accounts tapped for the wall.

The chairman’s mark would ban the U.S. from transferring F-35 stealth fighters to Turkey if Turkey acquires the Russian-made S-400 missile defense system. Turkey operating both weapons systems, as it would like to do, would risk giving the Russian military access to the jets’ secret capabilities.

The bill would also prohibit any defense funds from being used to reduce below 28,500 the number of active duty troops stationed in South Korea unless the defense secretary certifies that doing so will not undermine U.S. regional allies. That provision would take away from Trump a possible concession he could give in future nuclear talks with North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un. Since his inauguration, Trump has met with Kim in an attempt to deescalate nuclear tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

The bill provides for the wall. Fund the Afghanistan Security Services. Additionally, the chairman’s mark would make it easier for Afghans who have supported the U.S. military in their country, and thus endangered their own lives and their families’ lives, to immigrate to the U.S.

While immigration often divides the parties, both in the past have supported easing immigration restrictions on local Afghans who have aided the U.S. military, especially interpreters.
FROM FRONT PAGE

Last August, Congress ordered the Defense Department to overhaul how it handles allegations of sexual assault among the tens of thousands of military kids who live or attend school on U.S. bases worldwide.

Yet the case at Kadena Air Base began unfolding in February — six months after President Donald Trump signed those landmark reforms.

For decades, justice has been elusive on American bases when the children of servicemembers sexually assaulted each other. Help for victims and accountability for offenders was rare in the nearly 700 reports over a decade that an AP investigation documented.

The new law required reforms across the Pentagon. The school system it runs for servicemembers' kids had to create new student protection. The Family Advocacy Program, whose social service counselors would turn victims away, must review reports. The Office of the Secretary of Defense will track cases and create a policy for how to handle them.

The reforms are now rolling out, and the rollout has been uneven.

The Air Force has not drafted new guidelines. Instead, it is “reserving decision on adding or amending policy until publication of a Department of Defense policy,” according to spokesman Maj. Nicholas Mercurio.

Like in other armed services, Air Force representatives are helping form that policy. A Pentagon spokeswoman could not say when it will be published.

Mercurio called the Okinawa case “an extremely difficult situation.” He said the Air Force has scrambled to deliver “helping resources to the families involved while remaining focused on protecting the rights and privileges of all parties and preserving the integrity of the ongoing investigation.”

Kadena Air Base spokeswoman Lt. Col. Christy Stravolo noted that the 13-year-old boy has returned to the U.S. with his family. That happened within several weeks of the first allegations. Attempts to reach his parents were unsuccessful.

Army wrote own policy

The Army didn’t wait to follow the Pentagon’s lead. It wrote its own policy.

That March 21 directive mandates both a criminal investigation and victim assistance through Family Advocacy, which now must inform counterparts on other bases when an offender’s family transfers.

Because military law doesn’t apply to family members, justice must come under civilian law.

So cases on Army bases will be referred to state or local district attorneys who, unlike federal prosecutors, have juvenile justice systems.

“There’s a recognition that states are best able to adjudicate,” said Charles Lozano, an Army attorney who helped draft the policy.

The policy does not explore the nuances of overseas bases, where host-nation civilian authorities may treat juvenile sex crime allegations very differently. Instead of handing over suspects to Japanese officials, for example, the military often flies them back.

Rep. Jackie Speier, who chairs the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Personnel, said she was encouraged that the Army’s policy is “more comprehensive” than the law required.

“We’re going to continue to track this,” Speier said. “I’m not certain that this is enough. I’m very watchful in terms of observing what happens when these incidents occur. And they will occur.”

The Navy and Marines fall between the Army and Air Force.

The Marine Corps is updating its guidelines to include “language and protocols that address problematic sexual behavior in children and youth,” according to Maj. Craig Thomas. Publication is expected by year’s end.

Naval leaders have directed base commanders to work with social services, according to spokesman Lt. Samuel Boyle. The Navy also has issued interim guidance, which it would not share.

The most detailed changes came to the Pentagon-run school system that educates more than 70,000 students on bases in the U.S., Asia and Europe.

These students have not received protections that public school students get under Title IX, a federal law that’s been used to investigate sexual assault in schools and to help victims. Groness said students at Pentagon-run schools must get protections “at least comparable” to Title IX.

The school system published new policies in February.

School officials are supposed to be trained by Oct. 1, and a new incident logging system is scheduled to launch in the fall, the Department of Defense Education Activity said in a written statement.

For now, the school system introduced a “Sexual Harassment Awareness and Prevention” website.

Four Title IX experts who reviewed the policies for the AP said that while broadly they create comparable protections, their substantial shortcomings include a complex investigation process that relies on already stretched school principals.

“It seems unlikely that a principal would have both the training and the time to conduct these investigations in a thorough and timely manner,” said Megan Farrell, Title IX coordinator for the Palo Alto Unified School District in California.

A mid-April post on a Facebook page for teachers at Pentagon-run schools asked whether anyone was aware of the new policies.

Two said they had received training. One more mentioned a question and answer session at her school. Another eight had no training, with nearly all unaware of the new policy.

Family support crucial

About 4,000 students attend seven schools on Kadena. Like schools on many U.S. bases, Kadena’s have struggled with pace and attitude problems over the years.

Several high school students reported attacks.

The full scope of the latest case is under investigation. The AP interviewed two mothers of girls who were among the first to report and a third, a person who helped organize families. According to one mother, investigators stopped updates after relating that 10 kids had alleged abuse.

That same mother was troubled by guidance she heard from base officials: Don’t ask your daughter about what happened and don’t engage deeply if she raises it.

Investigators warned that conversations could taint a potential case, though criminal proceedings on overseas bases are rare. Counselors “said to just say, ‘How does that make you feel?’ ” the mother said.

Several experts said the best approach is a forensic interview by an expert followed by the therapeutic embrace of fully engaged parents. Talking can soften feelings of stigma and shame.

“Family support is critical to the healing,” said Michelle Miller, coordinator for mental health initiatives at the National Children’s Alliance, which accredits children’s advocacy centers that specialize in forensic interviews.

The chief of Air Force’s Family Advocacy Program said that while parents shouldn’t press their children, they can encourage — and even initiate — discussion.

“Attempts to avoid, shut down, or stop uncomfortable conversations could be viewed by the child as a sign that he/she has done something wrong,” Col. Patrick Pohle explained in email.

Three weeks into the Kadena case, some families still felt unsupported. An investigator had earlier suggested jotting the process with a call halfway around the world from the island of Okinawa — to Capitol Hill. In early March, the mother of the 5-year-old girl reached a sympathetic staffer at the Senate Armed Services Committee. The next day, the commander of Kadena called and asked how he could help.

Air Force officials said they have mobilized investigators and other specialists. The 5-year-old’s mother acknowledged those efforts and that some of the families may have had a different experience. In late March, counselors distributed a one-page summary encouraging parents to talk openly with their children.

“The difference from the beginning to now is that there is more communication,” the mother said. “But I don’t have confidence that if it happened tomorrow, the process would be successful. The policies haven’t been changed.”
Confusion abounds as Trump’s July 4 plans remain a mystery

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With three weeks to go, exactly what’s going to happen in Washington on the Fourth of July remains a subject of intense confusion because of President Donald Trump plans to reshape the nation’s premier celebration.

Will Independence Day festivities be based around the Washington Monument or shift to the Lincoln Memorial, as the White House has reportedly requested? Will Trump follow through on plans to give a speech? And, if he does, will the speech be open to anyone, including protesters, or will the White House restrict his audience to supporters at the traditionally nonpolitical event?

The White House hasn’t revealed its plans. The National Park Service, which is primarily responsible for the event, has also gone silent. That leaves the city government, which helps with security, in the dark.

Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton, D.C.’s representative in Congress, said interdepartmental planning meetings for July 4 usually begin up to three months in advance. But to her knowledge, none of those meetings has happened.

Norton said she approached the Park Service for details but: “They wouldn’t tell us a thing. You know why? Because they don’t know a thing.”

Mayor Muriel Bowser declined repeated requests for comment.

Independence Day normally draws tens of thousands of people to the National Mall for a celebration capped by fireworks. A major security overhaul was implemented following the Sept. 11 attacks, but the occasion has run smoothly for years.

The first sign that 2019’s celebration may be a little different came in a February tweet from Trump announcing a special “Salute to America” on July 4 that would feature “an address by your favorite President, me.”

Last week, a National Park Service official was quoted in The Washington Post saying the White House was planning a Trump speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial during the event.

But since that report, the White House and the National Park Service have refused to comment. Park Service spokesman Mike Litterst released a terse statement saying only that “We continue to work with the White House on creating a Salute to America program that will bring Americans from all over the country together in celebration of our great nation.”

Norton is predicting a security nightmare, with a new location and format being introduced. “This will be all sorts of headaches for security,” she said.

White House asserts executive privilege in census fight

By Michael Balsamo

WASHINGTON — House Democrats angling to spotlight damaging allegations from special counsel Robert Mueller’s report were focusing Wednesday on contacts between the Trump 2016 presidential campaign and Russia.

The House Intelligence Committee invited two former FBI officials to testify about the counterintelligence implications of Mueller’s investigation. Mueller did not find a criminal conspiracy between the campaign and Russia but did detail a series of interactions and outreach that have alarmed Democrats.

The far-reaching House resolution approved Tuesday empowers committee chairmen to take legal action without a vote of the full House, as long as they have approval from a bipartisan group of House leaders.

Trump Jr., former FBI officials to testify to panels

By Eric Tucker and Mary Clare Jalonick

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Trump, Biden trade barbs in battleground state

By THOMAS BEAUMONT, DARLENE SUPERVILLE and WILL WEISSERT
Associated Press

DAVENPORT, Iowa — President Donald Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden repeatedly laid into each other while traveling in the battleground state of Iowa, unleashing verbal attacks that at times felt more appropriate for the final weeks before Election Day than a lazy summer about 17 months before voters go to the polls.

The back-and-forth on Tuesday laid bare the rising political stakes for each man. Trump has zeroed in on Biden as a threat to his reelection chances and is testing themes to keep him at bay. Biden, meanwhile, is campaigning as a front-runner with near-universal name recognition, relishing the fight with Trump while trying to ensure he doesn’t ignore the demands of the crowded Democratic primary.

“People don’t respect him,” Trump said of Biden after touring a renewable energy facility in Council Bluffs. “Even the people that he’s running against, they’re saying: ‘Where is he? What happened?’

With a dose of exaggeration, the Republican president added: “He makes his stance in Iowa once every two weeks, and then he mentions my name 74 times in one speech. I don’t know. That reminds me of Crooked Hillary. She did the same thing.”

He went on to muse that standing for nothing but opposing his policies was the reason Clinton lost.

“At almost the same moment in Mount Pleasant, Biden noted that his staff told him Trump was watching footage of his criticism of the president from early in the day as Air Force One landed in Iowa. “I guess he’s really fascinated by me,” Biden said. “I find it fascinating.”

He started to say more but then stopped himself, quipping: “My mother would say, ‘Joey, focus. Don’t descend. Stay up.’”

Speaking Tuesday evening in Davenport, Biden suggested Trump was an “existential threat to America” and said voters must stop the president’s attempts to elevate his office beyond its traditional limits of power. He said Trump is “breaking down the barriers that constrain his power” and mockingly accused him of believing that he has “complete power.”

“No, you don’t, Donald Trump,” Biden cried, drawing cheers from a crowd of around 500 at the Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds.

“I’d rather run against Biden than anybody,” Trump told reporters on the White House lawn before flying to Iowa. “I think he’s the weakest mentally, and I like running against people that are weak mentally.”

Biden began the day Tuesday in Ottumwa, the heart of Wapello County, a meat-packing and agricultural manufacturing center that Trump was the first Republican to carry since Dwight D. Eisenhower. The former vice president hit Trump on the economy — an issue the president often promotes as his chief strength in a time of low unemployment.

Trump used his visit Tuesday to display the power of incumbency, talking up his administration’s accomplishments on trade and protection of agriculture in a state where both are vital.

In Council Bluffs, he toured a plant that produces and sells the corn-based fuel additive ethanol, and he signed an executive order he said would help farmers.

“I fought very hard for ethanol, but you proved me right,” Trump said, adding that he fought “for the American farmer like no president has fought before.”

Later, addressing an evening fundraiser in West Des Moines, Trump refrained from mentioning Biden by name but took a veiled swipe at the former vice president’s recent reversal on the Hyde Amendment, a ban on using federal funds to pay for abortions.

Biden now says he opposes the ban.

“They go for one thing for a lifetime, and then they flip, and they go to something totally different,” Trump said. “It depends on which race they’re running.”
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Hosted by Michelle Harven and Air Force veteran Desmon Farris.
US bishops convene to confront abuse scandal

BY REGINA GARCIA CANO AND DAVID CRARY
Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama — Confronting an unprecedented sex abuse crisis, delegates at the Southern Baptist Convention’s national meeting voted Tuesday to make it easier to expel churches that mishandle abuse cases.

The deliberations will be guided by a new law that Pope Francis issued on May 9. It requires priests and nuns worldwide to report sexual abuse as well as covering up by the superiors to church authorities.

Advocates for abuse victims have urged the U.S. bishops to move as quickly as possible to implement the pope’s guidance. The bishops said all abuse-related allegations concerning bishops should be reported to civil authorities first and then to a review board.

The deliberations will also be voting on a proposal to encourage — but not require — the involvement of lay experts in handling significant abuse allegations.

The bishops also voted to hold a similar proposal designating a “defining moment” that would “reform the system” and “lay the groundwork” for future work.

Among the agenda items is a proposal to encourage the creation of an independent, third-party entity that would receive and review allegations of abuse. The proposals are expected on Wednesday and Thursday.

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Protesters hit with tear gas in Hong Kong

Bloomberg

Protesters flooding downtown Hong Kong to oppose the government’s proposed extradition law effectively presented the city’s leaders with an ultimatum: Back down or risk violent clashes that could be worse than the Occupy movement in 2014.

On Wednesday, demonstrators gathered in the heart of the financial hub, and some battled with riot police throughout the afternoon to prevent lawmakers from debating the bill. Overwhelmingly young, many protesters wore surgical masks to hide their identities and plastic goggles to ward off pepper spray, which police fired sporadically throughout the day, along with tear gas, rubber bullets and beanbag rounds.

Hong Kong’s government, led by Chief Executive Carrie Lam, says it has no intention of giving in to the protesters’ key demand: extraditing to mainland China, where suspects could face criminal charges elsewhere.

Lam has drawn the bill is a necessary measure to update the city’s rules for dealing with individuals facing criminal charges elsewhere.

“This time some people say peaceful protest is useless,” said Suki Fung, 24, catching her breath after inhaling tear gas. “People think there has to be more of a fight — otherwise it’s useless with this government.”

For the protesters, the extradition law represents a line in the sand, a dramatic undercutting of local autonomy that will end Hong Kong’s status as a safe haven for dissidents fleeing the mainland. They have drawn the support of U.S. lawmakers like House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who called on Congress to reassess Hong Kong’s special trading status — a move that risks damaging the city’s reputation and pushing more multinational locations to locations like Singapore.

“We must fight peacefully, and we must continue,” opposition lawmaker Claudia Mo told the crowd. “With all your presence here, we can do it together.”

The marchers were well-organized and coordinated, dropping umbrellas from an overhead walkway to provide protection from police and the rain for those in streets below. Others tied metal barricades together to ward off police advancement, and some pulled bricks up from the road to use as potential projectiles.

The majority of the protesters appear to be ordinary Hong Kongers: teachers, office workers, retirees and students, many wearied by what they view as a yearslong campaign to undermine their city’s autonomy. For some of them, this week’s demonstrations are being treated as something of a last stand.

“This time the issue is very specific: that we cannot pass the evil law,” said Jason Chen, a retired social worker. “In 2014, it was more general. This is life or death.”

Moscow protests of falsified police cases leads to arrests

Associated Press

MOSCOW — More than 200 people were reported arrested on Wednesday in a large unauthorized Moscow protest against falsified police cases, sparked by the recent arrest of a prominent reporter on drug-dealing charges.

Golunov, an investigative reporter for the website Meduza, was arrested last week for allegedly dealing synthetic stimulants. His defense said he was beaten in custody and information indicating the charges were falsified quickly surfaced.

Many believed that Golunov was set up as retaliation for his reporting on Moscow City Hall and the city's crime-ridden funeral industry.

Protests of his arrest gathered strength quickly, apparently catching authorities by surprise, and complaints were reported in unusual detail by state media that generally hew closely to official versions.

Three of Russia’s most respected newspapers on Monday published near-identical front pages reading “I/we am/are Ivan Golunov” and even the powerful speaker of Russia’s upper house of parliament expressed concern about the case.

Yemeni rebels hit Saudi target as Abe arrives in Iran for talks

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe landed in Tehran on Wednesday on a mission to ease tensions between the U.S. and Iran, just hours after Iran-backed rebels in Yemen launched an attack on an airport in Saudi Arabia, wounding 26 people.

Abe’s trip is the highest level effort yet to deescalate the crisis as Tehran appears poised to break the 2015 nuclear deal it struck with world powers, an accord that the Trump administration pulled out of last year. It’s also the first visit of a sitting Japanese premier in the 40 years since the Islamic Revolution.

Success may prove difficult for Abe, as the Houthis rebel attack on Saudi’s Abha regional airport underscored. Separately, the front page of the Iranian daily Farheekhtegan, or Educated, on Wednesday morning published a picture of a mushroom cloud from a nuclear blast — a reference to America’s bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the end of World War II.

“How Can You Trust A War Criminal, Mr. Abe?” the newspaper asked in dual English and Farsi headlines. Hard-line news outlets in Iran immediately picked up the front page from the paper, published by students of Islamic Azad University, which has campuses across the nation.

Abe’s plane landed at Tehran’s Mehrabad International Airport, where he was greeted by Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif. He was to meet Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and with Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Thursday.

Abe landed just hours after the attack in Abha.

The Yemeni rebels, known as Houthis, said they launched a cruise missile at the Saudi airport. The kingdom said 26 people were hurt.

Though there were no fatalities, it was the largest number of civilians to be injured in Saudi Arabia as a result of an attack by the rebels since the start of the Saudi-led war in Yemen more than four years ago.

The Houthis have previously used ballistic missiles to target the Saudi capital, Riyadh, and the airport there. More recently, they have launched bomb-laden drones targeting a key oil pipeline.

Iran is threatening to resume enriching uranium closer to weapons-grade level on July 7 if European allies fail to offer new terms for the nuclear deal. While President Donald Trump says he wants to talk to Tehran, the U.S. has piled on sanctions.

The U.S. also has sent an aircraft carrier and B-52 bombers to the region.
Kosovo cheers after 20 years

Country remains in limbo as it marks end of Serbian crackdown

BY SYLEJMAN KLOKQI AND LILAZAR SEMINI

PRISTINA, Kosovo — In Kosovo so far, the sword has worked better than the ploughshare.

It's exactly 20 years since NATO forces set foot in the former Yugoslav province after an allied bombing campaign ended Serbia's bloody crackdown on an insurgency by the majority ethnic Albanian population in Kosovo — revered by Serbs as their historic and religious heartland.

But, though it is now independent, Kosovo and its 1.8 million people lack full international recognition. NATO forces are still there and relations with Serbia remain frigid despite years of European mediation efforts.

It doesn't help that both countries are headed by politicians deeply involved in the events of 1999 that left more than 10,000 dead.

Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic was a close aide of Serbian strongman Slobodan Milosevic, and his Kosovo counterpart, Hashim Thaci, led the ethnic Albanian insurgents.

The main proponents of the 78-day NATO air campaign — former U.S. President Bill Clinton, his secretary of state, Madeleine Albright; and then-NATO commander Wesley Clark — were in Pristina on Wednesday to attend celebrations marking 20 years since the NATO campaign that ended a bloody crackdown on the region by Serbia.

Former U.S. President Bill Clinton, center, speaks Wednesday in Pristina, Kosovo, with former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and former NATO commander Wesley Clark during celebrations marking 20 years since the NATO campaign that ended a bloody crackdown on the region by Serbia.

The dialogue that started in 2011 has been stalled since last year after Kosovo set a 100% import duty on all Serbian and Bosnian goods despite international calls to lift or suspend the measure.

A British NATO soldier holds two ethnic Albanian children as the Albanian population of Pristina greets NATO troops June 13, 1999.

A British NATO soldier holds two ethnic Albanian children as the Albanian population of Pristina greets NATO troops June 13, 1999.

Kasind, Congo — A 5-year-old boy vomiting blood became the first cross-border victim of Ebola in the current outbreak on Wednesday, while two more people in Uganda tested positive for the highly contagious disease that has killed nearly 1,400 in Congo.

The boy, part of a Congolese family who crossed into Uganda earlier in the week, died overnight, the World Health Organization said. Ugandan authorities said the two new cases are his 3-year-old brother and 50-year-old grandmother, who have been isolated at a hospital near the Congo border. Uganda now has three confirmed Ebola cases.

 Authorities are trying to determine how the family, exposed to the virus via a sick relative in Congo, managed to cross a border where health officials have been screening millions of travelers from Congo.

This has become the second-deadliest Ebola outbreak in history since the first cases were declared in August. A WHO expert committee has been alerted for a possible meeting on whether to declare an international health emergency now that the outbreak has crossed the border, a spokesman said.

Experts have long feared Ebola could spread to neighboring countries because of rebel attacks and community resistance hampering virus containment efforts in eastern Congo. The virus can spread quickly via close contact with bodily fluids of those infected and can be fatal in up to 90% of cases.

Congo’s Health Ministry said a dozen members of the boy’s family showed symptoms of Ebola.

The family likely did not pass through official border points, where health workers screen all travelers for a high temperature and isolate those who show signs of illness.

Many people are evade customs and using small footpaths and it is difficult for us to follow the contacts,” Kabongo said.

The family only did not pass through official border points, where health workers screen all travelers for a high temperature and isolate those who show signs of illness.

In Uganda, where authorities had been alerted by the boy’s relatives, the boy received treatment while relatives were isolated and tested. The boy’s uncle is now among seven suspected Ebola cases in Uganda, Health Minister Jane Aceng said, adding that authorities on both sides of the border would do their best to close unauthorized crossings.
DE

DOVER — A 16-year-old Delaware girl was offered $1.2 million in academic scholarships from more than a dozen universities and colleges.

Delaware State News reported Angelica Malone graduated with honors last month from Early College High School at Delaware State University.

Malone was home-schooled throughout middle school and started high school when she was 12 years old.

Malone is planning to attend Albright College in Reading, Pa., to study psychology this fall. She has already earned 44 college credits and will be a college sophomore when she starts.

Woman finds python in kitchen pantry

MO

BALLWIN — A suburban St. Louis woman returned from vacation to find an 18-inch-long python curled up in the corner of a kitchen cabinet.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported that the Ballwin woman reported she found the snake June 2 at her home in the Kensington West apartments.

Officers used a pillow case to capture the snake. Animal control officers identified it as a python and took it away.

The mystery remains as to how the reptile got into the cabinet. Ballwin police officer Scott Stephens figures it was someone’s pet, but a check of neighbors found no one had lost a python.

Fluids from corpse close restaurant

CT

WINDSOR — Fluids leaking from a decomposing body upstairs forced health officials to close a Connecticut restaurant.

WFSB-TV reported Windsor police were called to the Siam Corner Thai Kitchen and Pho restaurant on May 29 for a report of a foul odor and a reddish-brown liquid dripping from the ceiling of the restaurant behind the front counter.

Police said they entered the apartment above the restaurant through an unlocked window and found the tenant’s body in his bed. They said he had been dead for several days.

Police said no foul play is suspected.

Cop gives his shoes to homeless man

IL

NILES — A police officer in suburban Chicago took off his shoes and gave them to a homeless man who had tripped because of poor footwear.

The Niles police department said on Facebook that Officer Brian Zarynski gave up his shoes Saturday. He also offered a pack of toiletries and clothing but the man politely declined.

Facebook followers were impressed. Dawn Stensom wrote, “Kindness doesn’t cost a thing.”

School locked down after bear is spotted

RI

CRANSTON — A Rhode Island middle school was placed in lockdown when a bear was spotted wandering school grounds.

School officials said Hope Highlands Middle School in Cranston went into lockdown as a precaution about 8:30 a.m. Monday.

Students were already inside for the day, and there were no reports of encounters between the bear and students or staff.

Ray Votto, chief operating officer of Cranston public schools, told The Providence Journal that he’s worked in the system a long time and this is the first time a bear has caused a lockdown.

Law lets patrons dine with dogs outdoors

TX

GALVESTON — Texas restaurants may soon welcome dogs in outdoor dining areas under a new state law that allows patrons to bring their furry friends to a business’ discretion.

The Galveston County Daily News reported that Gov. Greg Abbott signed a bill into law that changed the state’s previous stance on dogs in dining areas.

Texas health code previously prohibited dogs from locations where food is served and prepared. Counties and cities would skirt the law by enacting their own rules, such as requiring permits or extra inspections.

SBrilla Witch Project’ to get video game

MD

BALTIMORE — A video game inspired by the Maryland-based horror film “The Blair Witch Project” is expected to come to PCs and XBOXes in August.

The Baltimore Sun reported the game was announced at a video game conference in Los Angeles. The game, which will draw on events from the 1999 film, has a release date of Aug. 30.

The game was shot in locations in Maryland, including the town of Burkittsville. The film follows a group of college students as they create a documentary in the Maryland woods about the legend of the Blair Witch.

The low-budget film became a cult classic that popularized the “found footage” horror genre.

Several artists’ pieces stolen at festival

PA

PITTSBURGH — Artwork valued in the thousands of dollars was stolen from several artists at Pittsburgh’s Three Rivers Arts Festival.

The thefts occurred between Saturday night and Sunday morning. The artists arrived to find their works gone.

The festival has 24-hour security, and it’s not clear how some of the larger pieces were stolen without anyone noticing.

Raising the wall

Blount County Habitat for Humanity volunteers raise a wall for the 2019 Women Build house on West Franklin Street in Alcoa, Tenn. The Women Build, which is held every two years, is an effort to get more women to join the team as the ratio of construction volunteers in Habitat for Humanity is 10% women and 90% men.

The number of cases of unclaimed energy drinks a shipping company is selling. A court is allowing Yang Ming Marine Transport to sell the drinks that a client failed to pick up or pay for after the merchandise arrived at the Port of Charleston, S.C. The Post and Courier reported HED Products LLC abandoned five 40-foot-long containers filled with Hype Energy drinks in December. The cargo is valued at more than $60,000.

Three Rivers Arts Festival.

The festival has 24-hour security, and it’s not clear how some of the larger pieces were stolen without anyone noticing.

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Digital billboards to show tornado warnings

CHAMPAIGN The National Weather Service and an outdoor advertising company are teaming up to equip nine digital billboards in central Illinois with the ability to display tornado warnings.

Adams Outdoor Advertising said the billboards in Champaign will alert drivers to any tornado warning in effect within 20 miles of each billboard.

General manager Reid Reker said the company is providing the warnings as a donation to the community in the interest of public safety.

When an alert is activated, each billboard will show the tornado warning until it has been lifted.
Principal accused of copying Kutterch speech is suspended

Associated Press

A West Virginia principal accused of plagiarizing Ashton Kutcher in an address to his school's graduating class has been suspended without pay for five days.

The News and Sentinel reports that Parkersburg High School Principal Kenny DeMoss was suspended Tuesday at a Board of Education meeting. DeMoss apologized for plagiarizing Ashton Kutcher in an address to his school's graduating class Tuesday.

After a chance meeting with Bill Murray in the 1990s, director Jim Jarmusch, above, has collaborated with the actor three times.

J

Jim Jarmusch and Bill Murray's long-running relationship began, fittingly, with a cup of coffee. In the early '90s, Jarmusch was walking north on Manhattan's Columbus Avenue (“not my neighborhood,” he notes) when he noticed a guy walking toward him. That's Bill bleedin'-murray, Jarmusch said to himself.

"Bill walked right up to me and said, 'You're Jim, right?'” Jarmusch recalls. ‘And I said, ‘Yeah. You're Bill Murray.” And then he said, ‘Do you want to get a cup of coffee?"

They popped into a diner and after chatting for half an hour, Murray announced, “I gotta go. Nice talking to you.” Jarmusch was gobsmacked by the random meeting.

“We didn’t talk again for years but I told my friends: I met Bill Mur-

ray,” he says.

That Murray and Jarmusch would find each other was probably fated. Both have made deadpan a high art form, finding sublimity in the bone-dry. You wouldn’t want to play either of them in poker.

They’ve made three films together, starting with the 2003 black-and-white vignette anthology "Coffee and Cigarettes." Murray played a waiter whose two customers, the Wu-Tang Clan’s RZA and GZA, enthusiastically recognize him. Then came the 2005 drama "Broken Flowers," a high point for both, in which Murray played, in Julie Delpy’s words, “an over-the-hill Don Juan” whose idleness is shattered by the news that he fathered a son 20 years ago.

Now, in “The Dead Don’t Die,” Jarmusch’s wry but impassioned zombie tale, Murray plays the veteran sheriff of a small town called Centerville populated by Jarmusch regulars, among them Tilda Swinton, Adam Driver, Chloe Sevigny, Tom Waits and Bruce Springsteen.

Jarmusch said he was moved to write something like "Coffee and Cigarettes" with “a kind of ridiculousness to it.” But it’s also a zombie parable about issues of urgent seriousness to Jarmusch: digital-age distraction and climate change. The film opens in theaters Friday.

"You want to get a cup of coffee?”

Murray: Well, I didn't know which part was mine. I kept

If I'm not supposed to have a favor-

ite movie, but I really stopped after that movie. I didn't think I could do any better. I started think-

ning I'd find something else to do, but I guess (laughs) I didn't find anything else to do.

Jarmusch: I was so attracted to Bill’s subtlety. He’s a

Master at being subtly human.

For “The Dead Don’t Die,” Jim again wrote a part

specifically for you. What was your first impression?

Murray: I didn’t know what part was mine. I kept

thinking: I hope it’s this police chief guy because I thought it was so funny. Then when I started doing the movie, I realized, “Holy God, I missed this completely. Adam's staff is the funny stuff.” I realized I had it all wrong and I had to play it straight here. And I love playing

straight. It’s the most serving thing you can do. You just lob them out there and don’t cash in your chips.

Bill Murray plays a small-town sheriff in Jim Jarmusch’s zombie parable “The Dead Don’t Die,” which opens Friday.

AP photo
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Raise wages for workers and Congress

BY PAUL WALDMAN  
The Washington Post

Nobody (or almost nobody) likes the idea of special treatment for members of Congress. They ought to live like us, be like us, share in our suffering. But the decision to permit them not like some consolation prize off in their capitol on a hill.

Nevertheless, the time has come to give them a raise. The American public, particularly those who make the least, deserve one. What do they do for a living? Not much.

Let’s start with the regular people. It has been 10 years since we raised the federal minimum wage in the United States. We’re about to surpass the longest period without an increase since the minimum wage was first enacted in 1938. Working full time at $7.25 an hour, you’d be making only around $15,000 a year, well below the poverty threshold for even a two-person family.

An increase is long overdue. The minimum wage hasn’t been increased in so long comes down to one word: Republicans. Pretty much every Democrat supports raising it, but an increase can’t pass because Republicans are opposed. In another era, nearly every state that hasn’t raised its own wage beyond the federal government.

The standard Republican answer to calls for increasing the minimum wage — and I wish I was joking about this today — is that we don’t do it because what they want is for people to make even more than a minimum wage.

“We could give you a sandwich, but what I really want is for you to someday enjoy a steak and lobster dinner. So no sandwich.”

What has happened in the past is that the minimum wage has been increased, then some times passes, Democrats start advocating another increase, Republicans resist it, and eventually the pressure gets great enough to make Republicans bend. But perhaps because their party has become more conservative in recent years and more concerned that too much tax revenue is collected by the wealthy and a compliant, low-wage workforce with no ability to bargain collectively is a good thing.

Partly in response to that intransigence and more importantly as a response to the growing research on how raising the $15 minimum wage would help lift the consciousness in the Democratic Party. Most Democrats also believe that once we raise it we should index it to inflation. The minimum wage would go up automatically to keep pace with the cost of living, and we would no longer have to rely on the generosity of Republicans for people at the bottom of the income ladder to get a raise.

The increase that would come with indexing to inflation would solve the immediate economic problem and the long-term political problem. Which is why that’s what Congress tried to do with its own salaries.

Like anybody else, members of Congress would like a raise from time to time, but they also do not like the idea that their next opponent will run ads saying, “While you were working hard, Congressman Jones was handed a raise.” Which is why every time the issue comes up, everyone is skittish about it.

The reason the minimum wage hasn’t been increased three decades ago when a system of automatic cost of living increases was put in place, relieving members of the necessity of voting themselves pay increases. The only trouble is that it didn’t keep them from voting to stop themselves from getting an increase, which is what they’ve done every since the Great Recession hit. Once that bond is broken, it’s hard to get it undone even if doing it can become fodder for an attack.

Which it has once again, now that this issue has returned. Democrats and Republicans thought they had an agreement to include a pay increase in a budget bill and not attach each other over it, but then the National Renewable Energy Committee-started calling Democrats “socialist elitists” for wanting a pay increase, and freshman Democrats who want to maintain their reformist bona fides said they didn’t want to vote for a pay increase, and the whole thing broke down.

For all the reasons to raise congressional pay, which has been frozen for as long as the minimum wage. The current $174,000 salary may seem like a lot, but if you have to maintain two homes (one in Washington and one in your district), it really isn’t.

Furthermore, the lower pay for members of Congress is, the more incentive they have to leave government service and cash in on their experience. That’s why Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., who set a minimum salary of $52,000 for her own staff, much higher than what you see at House of Representatives.

So the solution here is obvious: Join the minimum wage and congressional salaries together, and increase the minimum wage for members of Congress a raise together, and simultaneously index the minimum wage to inflation. Then we can argue about something else.

Don’t punish the innocent in college scandals

BY STEPHEN L. CARTER  

Strictly speaking, the question is not legal but ethical. The law might provide a helpful starting point. My first-year contracts students are always amazed that they learn that innocent beneficiaries of a fraud will sometimes get to keep what they got. A well-known case from six decades ago involved a woman who, on her deathbed, tried to change the beneficiaries of her will.

The reason the minimum wage hasn’t been increased, three decades ago when a system of automatic cost of living increases was put in place, relieving members of the necessity of voting themselves pay increases. The only trouble is that it didn’t keep them from voting to stop themselves from getting an increase, which is what they’ve done every since the Great Recession hit. Once that bond is broken, it’s hard to get it undone even if doing it can become fodder for an attack.

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States sue to block Sprint, T-Mobile deal

By Tali Arbel
AND MARY ANDERSON
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A group of state attorneys general led by New York and California filed a federal lawsuit Tuesday to block T-Mobile’s $26.5 billion bid for Sprint, citing consumer harm.

The state attorneys general said the promised benefits, such as better networks in rural areas and faster service overall, cannot be verified, while eliminating a major wireless company will immediately harm consumers by reducing competition and driving up prices for cellphone service.

New York Attorney General Letitia James said in a statement that combining the two companies would reduce access to affordable, reliable wireless service nationwide and would particularly affect lower income and minority communities in New York and other urban areas.

Other attorneys general joining Tuesday’s lawsuit are from Colorado, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Virginia and Wisconsin.

The lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court in New York. The lawsuit is an unusual step by state officials ahead of a decision by federal antitrust authorities. The Justice Department’s decision is pending. The Federal Communications Commission supports the deal, though the agency has yet to vote.

Too many “mega mergers have sailed through the governmental approval process on autopilot,” James said at a news conference. “There’s no rule or regulation that we have to wait for the DOJ,” she said. She added the attorneys general will “continue to litigate whether the DOJ approves the merger or not.”

Diana Moss, president of the American Antitrust Institute and an advocate for tougher antitrust enforcement, said the states’ lawsuit could signal to other potential merger partners that there would be tougher enforcement from states even if the federal government permitted deals to go through.

T-Mobile and Sprint have argued that they need to bulk up to upgrade to a fast, powerful “5G” mobile network that competes with Verizon and AT&T. The companies are appealing to President Donald Trump’s desire for the U.S. to “win” a global 5G race.

Amanda Wait, an antitrust lawyer and former Federal Trade Commission lawyer, said states are acting because they disagree with what they have seen the federal government doing.

“They see the FCC accepting certain remedies and concessions that don’t, in their minds, solve the problem,” she said.

T-Mobile declined comment. Sprint and the Justice Department did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

EXCHANGE RATES

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The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.
FREE AD Guidelines:
- Free ads are available only for DOD ID Card holders selling personal merchandise.
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  1. Vehicle buyers wanting to have the vehicle shipped through an agent using overseas companies.
  2. People requesting a donation or payment for adoption.

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Free Classifieds
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**Stars and Stripes.**
Mobile • Online • Print
**College baseball**

**World Series**

At Omaha, Neb.

(Doubles Elimination: if necessary)

Michigan—Texas

First Round

First Game— Michigan 6, Texas 2

Second Game— Michigan 5, Texas 4. Three innings.

Third Game— Michigan 12, Texas 0. Three innings.

Fourth Game— Michigan 4, Texas 1. Three innings.

**MLB**

**Tuesday's transactions**

**BASEBALL**

**MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL**

Atlanta Braves: Placed RHP Ender Inciarte on the 10-day injured list with a right thumb contusion. Replaced him on the 28-man roster with LHP David Perri.

**BOSTON RED SOX**

Placed RHP Ryan Weber on the 10-day injured list with a right lower leg strain. Replaced him on the 28-man roster with RHP Nick Pivetta.

Los Angeles Angels: Placed OF Justin Upton on the 10-day injured list with a lower back strain. Replaced him on the 28-man roster with OF Zach Reks.

**NEW YORK YANKEES**

Optioned OFstations for a rehab assignment. Appointed RHP Jordan Montgomery to the 40-man roster.

**MINNESOTA TWINS**

Traded LHP Taylor Rogers to the Milwaukee Brewers for OF stations for a rehab assignment.

**LOS ANGELES DODGERS**

Placed RHP Scott Alexander on the 10-day injured list with a lower back strain. Replaced him on the 28-man roster with RHP Robby Scott.

**REYNOSA—**

Placed OF Melvin Upton Jr. on the 10-day injured list with a right calf strain. Replaced him on the 28-man roster with OF stations for a rehab assignment.

**TAMPA BAY RAYS**

Optioned LHP Ciaran Long to the GCL Rays for a rehab assignment.

**CINCINNATI REDS**

Optioned RHP Robert Stephenson to the Triple-A Louisville Bats. Replaced him on the 40-man roster with RHP stations for a rehab assignment.

**BOSTON RED SOX**

Placed LHP Josh Taylor on the 10-day injured list with a left shoulder strain. Replaced him on the 28-man roster with LHP Trent Johnson.

** rockyization**

**INSON**

**BOSTON RED SOX**

Placed OF Christian Arroyo on the 10-day injured list with a left foot strain. Replaced him on the 28-man roster with OF Kamron Davis.

**ST. LOUIS CARDINALS**

Optioned OF Ciaran Long to the GCL Rays for a rehab assignment.

**PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES**

Placed LHP Robert Gsellman on the 60-day injured list with a right shoulder strain. Replaced him on the 40-man roster with RHP stations for a rehab assignment.

**PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES**

Placed RHP Mike Morin on the 10-day injured list with a lower back strain. Replaced him on the 28-man roster with RHP Tyrell Terry.

**NEW YORK METS**

Optioned OF Ryan Cordell to the Triple-A Syracuse Mets. Replaced him on the 40-man roster with OF stations for a rehab assignment.

**NEW YORK YANKEES**

Recalled OF Tim Anderson from the Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders. Optioned OF Estevan Florial to the Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders.

**WASHING THOMAS GILCHRIST **

Recalled OF Thomas Girolamo from the Triple-A Durham Bulls. Replaced him on the 40-man roster with OF stations for a rehab assignment.

**BOSTON RED SOX**

Optioned OF Marwin Gonzalez to the Triple-A Pawtucket Red Sox. Replaced him on the 40-man roster with OF stations for a rehab assignment.

**DETROIT TIGERS**

Optioned OF Christian Arroyo to the Triple-A Toledo Mud Hens. Replaced him on the 40-man roster with OF stations for a rehab assignment.

**PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES**

Optioned OF Christian Arroyo to the Triple-A Lehigh Valley IronPigs. Replaced him on the 40-man roster with OF stations for a rehab assignment.

**KANSAS CITY ROYALS**

Optioned OF Christian Arroyo to the Triple-A Omaha Storm Chasers. Replaced him on the 40-man roster with OF stations for a rehab assignment.

**INDIANAPOLIS COLTS**

Optioned OF Christian Arroyo to the Triple-A Omaha Storm Chasers. Replaced him on the 40-man roster with OF stations for a rehab assignment.

**NEW YORK YANKEES**

Optioned OF Christian Arroyo to the Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders. Replaced him on the 40-man roster with OF stations for a rehab assignment.

**NEW YORK JETS**

Released TE Sean McKeever on waivers.

**OAKLAND RAIDERS**

Waived LB Vic Beasley.

**WASHINGTON REDSKINS**

Waived LB Kendall Fuller.

**HOOFY CHAMBER**

**BOSTON RED SOX**

Trade OF Christian Arroyo to the Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders. Replaced him on the 40-man roster with OF stations for a rehab assignment.

**EDMONTON OILERS**

Signed RW Patrick Russell to a minor league contract.

**SASKATOON SKINS**

Signed LK Miller to a minor league contract.

**FLINT BLADES**

SIGNED LK Miller to a minor league contract.

**MINNESOTA WOLVES**

Signed LW Miller to a minor league contract.

**KANSAS CITY CHIEFS**

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Much at stake in return to Oracle

By Brian Mahoney
Associated Press

TORONTO — The NBA Finals are making one last trip to Oracle Arena.

For the Toronto Raptors, it's a second shot at a first championship.

For the Golden State Warriors, it'll be a night to play for a fallen teammate and the fans they're leaving behind.

Game 6 is Thursday and the stakes could hardly be higher.

"We owe our fans one more game in Oracle," Warriors guard Klay Thompson said.

They've been so many already during Golden State's stretch of five straight trips to the NBA Finals, the second-longest run in NBA history. But few had all the drama and emotion that will fill the Oakland Air Thursday.

Toronto will bring a 3-2 lead into the building and try again to win a title that seemed so close in Game 5. The Raptors had a six-point lead with less than 3 minutes remaining Monday, poised to put an end to a Golden Era in the NBA. Then Thompson and Stephen Curry rallied Golden State in a 106-102 swing that left some of the best three-pointers.

Now the Raptors have to do something a little bit better, for a little bit longer.

"Come out and do the same thing. Just be mentally focused, try to limit our mistakes, and be the aggressor," Kawhi Leonard said.

"We had it to my own Achilles. I've had it to my own back. It's a foolhardy to think otherwise."

The Warriors surely want to keep him.

The chatter about Durant's injury indicates it's all a mystery now, although it shouldn't be.

Players have made comebacks off Achilles surgery, with relative levels of success.

DeMarcus Cousins, Kobe Bryant, and Rudy Gay all came back; Cousins hasn't regained past form yet. Dominique Wilkins had an Achilles tear happen to him at the peak of his career and he arguably was good as ever afterward.

Elton Brand, now leading the Philadelphia 76ers' front office, had it as a player and said he was never the same.

"I've been there," 15-time golf major winner Tiger Woods said Tuesday at the U.S. Open. "I've had it to my own Achilles. I've had it to my own back. I know what it feels like. It's an awful feeling. And no one can help you. That's the hard part.

Woods bought his way back toward the top of his sport, and is the reigning Masters champion.

Durant isn't going to let an Achilles injury finish his career. Durant said he's going to come back stronger, with a return to form.

"This is a devastating injury for a basketball player, but Durant can return to be the same or very close," Dr. David Chao, a longtime NFL team physician, practicing orthopedic surgeon and now a sports medical analyst with a large following wrote Tuesday. "This does not mark his downfall as an elite player."

In the short term, it just means Durant's NBA Finals are over. Game 6 is Thursday night, and the Warriors trail the Toronto Raptors 3-2 in the title series.

In the long term, it might mean so much more — including the possibility that his time playing for Golden State is over.

Achilles recoveries for basketball players have typically taken about a full year. Even if it turns out to be a partial tear, it's still a fear. Some team was going to pay Durant a lot of money in 2019-20 for Golden State is over.

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Morgan has 5 goals in US rout

Relentless Americans set record for goals, victory margin in 13-0 win

BY ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

REIMS, France — Thailand was never a real threat to the U.S. national team. Even so, the three-time Women’s World Cup champions had no desire to go easy on a lesser opponent in their opening game.

Goals matter in the group stage.
And statements matter in soccer’s biggest tournament.

“Obviously we have the utmost respect for everyone we play, but it’s the World Cup,” said captain Megan Rapinoe.

Alex Morgan tied the tournament record with five goals and the United States opened with a historic 13-0 rout of Thailand on Tuesday night. Samantha Mewis and Rose Lavelle each added a pair of goals for the United States, which broke the record for goals and margin of victory in a World Cup game.

Rapinoe, Lindsey Horan, Mallory Pugh and Carli Lloyd also scored. The previous record margin was Germany’s 11-0 victory over Argentina in 2007. Morgan tied Michelle Akers’ record for World Cup goals, set in the 1999 tournament.

The United States faced criticism over its relentless attack.
The Americans led 3-0 at the half and then broke the match open in the second half, with the players celebrating goal after goal.

The Americans meant no disrespect, said Morgan, but they simply wanted to position themselves for a run at a second consecutive title.

“We really just came into the game really wanting to showcase ourselves,” Morgan said.

US forward, who scored five goals in the game

Alex Morgan, second from right, celebrates with teammates, including Megan Rapinoe, right, Christen Press, left, and Mallory Pugh, after scoring the United States’ 12th goal during the Women’s World Cup Group F match against Thailand in Reims, France, Tuesday. It was Morgan’s fifth goal of the match.

The United States faced criticism over its relentless attack.
Fouls Committed

0 — United States, Carli Lloyd, 55th; 1, United States, Rose Lavelle, 65th; 2, United States, Alex Morgan, 45th; 3, United States, Lindsey Horan, 92nd.

Yellow Cards

0 — United States, Carli Lloyd, 55th; 1, United States, Rose Lavelle, 65th; 2, United States, Alex Morgan, 45th; 3, United States, Lindsey Horan, 92nd.

Red Cards

0 — United States, Carli Lloyd, 55th; 1, United States, Rose Lavelle, 65th; 2, United States, Alex Morgan, 45th; 3, United States, Lindsey Horan, 92nd.

US 13, Thailand 0

Thailand 0

First half

0 0 0 Thailand 0

Second half

0 0 0 Thailand 0

Total

0 0 0 Thailand 0

US 13

First half

0 0 0 United States 0

Second half

0 0 0 United States 0

Total

0 0 0 United States 0

US vs. Thailand

Scoreboard
TE. Ertz eager to cheer wife

By Rob Maaddi
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Zach Ertz is cheering for his wife in the Women’s Cup from minicamp for only a few days.

The Philadelphia Eagles two-time Pro Bowl tight end is heading to France on Friday to watch his wife, Julie Ertz, compete with the U.S. team. The defending champions opened with a record-breaking 13-0 rout of Thailand on Tuesday night.

“It’s awesome being married to Julie, being able to support the people we love doing what they love to do,” Zach told The Associated Press. “I’ve seen all the work she does each and every day and I’ve seen all the adversity she’s faced over the past seven years we’ve been together. I’ve seen the injuries. I’ve seen her cry. I’ve seen the blood. I’ve seen the tears. Because she loves the game so much, I’ve been invested in seeing her succeed. That hard work is paying off.”

It’s a role reversal for the sports power couple. Julie was in Minneapolis rooting for her husband when he made the game-winning touchdown catch in Philadelphia’s 41-33 win over New England in the Super Bowl in February 2018. But the two were apart when the Eagles beat Minnesota in the NFC championship game. Julie was in San Diego for a national team match against Denmark and burst into tears afterward when she learned the Eagles won.

“It’s very similar to how she would feel watching me play,” Zach said about sitting in the stands. “It’s special. It’s definitely unique in a sense as an athlete, you always feel you have control of the game or of the situation. When I sit in the stands, I’m just a casual person with a vested interest in seeing a team succeed, seeing Julie succeed. It’s a lot different (than playing) because you have no control when you sit in the stands.”

Zach and Julie were married in March 2017, but they have to spend quite a bit of time apart because of their hectic schedules.

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Briefly

From wire reports

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic — Dominican prosecutors say witnesses and security camera footage show that the attempt to kill former Red Sox star David Ortiz was carried out by two men on a motorcycle and two other groups of people in cars, indicating a new level of sophistication in the attack.

The details were contained in a court document obtained by The Associated Press on Wednesday.

Oliver Moises Mirabal Acosta, who was captured Tuesday night in the town of Mao in the northern Dominican Republic, was driving a grey Hyundai Accent before mounting the bike driven by 25-year-old Eddy Vladimir Feliz Garcia, the document said.

The document also said the two men were seen on security camera footage talking with other people in the Accent and another Hyundai in a nearby street before the shooting at 9:20 p.m. on Sunday.

“In one of the videos it was possible to observe both the accused and the shooter planning the commission of the incident right on Octavio Mejia Street, which is parallel to the place where the event took place,” prosecutors said.

The document also reveals an epiphany, saying the driver was captured after he skidded and fell off his bike as the pair tried to flee.

Felix Garcia’s lawyer says his client is an innocent motorcycle taxi driver who had no idea his passenger was going to commit a crime.

Ortiz is recovering from his wounds in intensive care in Boston.

Froome breaks leg, out of Tour de France

Chris Froome, the four-time winner of the Tour de France, will miss next month’s race after he was “badly injured” in a crash during the Critérium du Dauphiné in France.

The 34-year-old British cyclist, who rides for Team INEOS, sustained a fractured femur, the team principal said, adding that he was awaiting confirmation on the specific injuries. Dave Brailsford told reporters that Froome and his teammate, Wout Poels, were racing downhill when a gust of wind swept Froome off course during a recon, or pre-ride, before stage four in Roanne.

The Tour de France starts July 6 in Brussels.

Saints, Joran reach 3-year, $55.5M deal

METAIRIE, La. — Saints defensive end Cameron Jordan, who has been New Orleans’ sack leader in six of the past seven seasons, has agreed to a three-year extension worth up to $55.5 million, a person familiar with the situation said Tuesday.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity on Tuesday because the extension, which follows the two years left on his current contract and runs through 2023, is not expected to be signed until Wednesday morning and has not been announced.

Jordan, who spoke after a mini-camp practice on Tuesday, said an extension had not been signed, but hinted that a verbal agreement was in place and stressed that he intended to play in New Orleans as long as possible.

NBA admits Gasol should have gotten FTs

OAKLAND, Calif. — The NBA says Toronto’s Marc Gasol should have been given two free throws after his three-point attempt was blocked in Game 5 of the NBA Finals in Toronto, a game that the Raptors lost to Golden State by one point.

Gasol was fouled by the Warriors’ DeMarcus Cousins on a drive, the NBA said in its Last Two Minutes Report that was issued Tuesday. Gasol missed the shot and tumbled to the floor, but no foul was called.

Golden State led 106-103 at the time. The Warriors wound up prevailing 106-105, staying off elimination and sending the series back to Oracle Arena for Game 6 on Thursday night.

The NBA said Cousins moved into Gasol, “initiating contact that affects his driving shot attempt.”
American League

East Division

New York

Boston

Toronto

Baltimore

Central Division

Minneapolis

Chicago

Cleveland

Kansas City

West Division

Los Angeles

Oakland

Seattle

National League

East Division

Atlanta

Philadelphia

New York

Pittsburgh

Central Division

Cincinnati

St. Louis

Milwaukee

West Division

Los Angeles

Colorado

San Francisco

Tuesday, June 19, 2019

Rockies 10, Cubs 3

Chic.
Astros' Alvarez: 2 games, 2 HRs

Rookie helps Houston top Milwaukee

BY KRISTIE RIEKEN  
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Yordan Alvarez's teammates told the slugger they'd fine him if he didn't homer in his first game for the Houston Astros.

After he connected in his debut they warned him that the fine would double if he didn't knock one out of the park in Game 2.

So far, Alvarez isn't out a dime.

Alvarez hit one of Houston's four home runs to become the first player in franchise history to homer in his first two major league games and lead the Astros to a 10-8 win over the Milwaukee Brewers on Tuesday night.

"It's something incredible and emotional. I can barely describe it, to be able to hit two home runs in my first two games in the big leagues," Alvarez said through a translator.

Yuli Gurriel, Robinson Chirinos and Tyler White also homered for the Astros, who won for the fourth time in five games.

Houston led by one in the fifth when Michael Brantley hit a run-scoring triple to chase Freddy Peralta (3-3). He was replaced by Matt Albers, who was greeted with a single by Gurriel which pushed the lead to 6-3. Alvarez then knocked a changeup by Albers into the right-field seats to extend the lead to 8-3.

The 21-year-old Alvarez, who led the Pacific Coast League with 23 homers, also had a two-run shot in his debut on Sunday. He is the first player since Trevor Story in 2016 to homer for the first two hits of his career.

Manager AJ Hinch was impressed with how Alvarez bounced back with his homer after striking out in his first two at-bats on Tuesday night.

"I haven't been around him enough to see how he really responds to the success or failure," Hinch said. "But after the couple of punchouts, he stays on the ball, he's got tremendous strength ... it was a nice swing. We needed as many runs as we could get tonight."

Travis Shaw hit a solo homer for the Brewers in the seventh before a two-run home run by Chirinos in the bottom of the inning extended Houston's lead to 10-4.

The Brewers added a run on a bases-loaded walk in the eighth and got within two on Yasmani Grandal's three-run homer off Chris Devenski with two outs in the ninth. But Devenski struck out Eric Thames to end it.

Houston starter Brad Peacock (6-3) yielded seven hits and four runs in 6 2/3 innings for the win. Peralta took the loss by giving up eight hits and six runs in four-plus innings.

"I thought some of the pitches were good ... sometimes that's concerning too, just because they're hitting your good pitches, that's trouble," manager Craig Counsell said. "He threw strikes again. He attacked. That part I liked. Obviously, the home runs and the driven balls got him."

Christian Yelich hit his MLB-leading 29th home run and finished a triple shy of the cycle as Milwaukee's four-game winning streak was snapped. It was his second straight game with a home run and extended his hitting streak to a season-high nine games.

"I could not see Yelich hit again and I'd be fine," Hinch said. "He's really good."

Roundup

Pence's inside-the-park home run powers Rangers

BOSTON — Hunter Pence hit a stand-up, inside-the-park home run and the Texas Rangers beat the Boston Red Sox 9-5 Tuesday night after both managers were ejected.

Ariel Jurado (4-2) struck out six while pitching six innings of three-run ball, and Pence, Asdrubal Cabrera and Ronald Guzman each had two RBIs for the Rangers. Texas has won four of five, including Monday night's extra-innings victory at Fenway Park.

Xander Bogaerts and Mookie Betts homered for Boston, which has lost three straight and five of six.

The Red Sox dropped to 34-34 on a night filled with frustrations. Andrew Benintendi was ejected in the fifth, and manager Alex Cora was also tossed defending his reliever.

Darwinzon Hernandez (0-1) made his first major league start and struck out seven, but he struggled with his control and allowed four runs, three earned — on three hits and five walks.

Yankees 12-4, Mets 5-10: Pete Alonso hit a three-run homer in the first inning off an ineffective James Paxton (3-3), J.D. Davis and Carlos Gomez also went deep, and the visiting Mets won the second game of a day-night doubleheader to earn a split with the Yankees.

Luke Voit hit a three-run homer off Zack Wheeler (5-4) in a five-run fourth inning as the Yankees overcame a three-run deficit to win the opener.

Cardinals 7, Marlins 1: Rookie Dakota Hudson (5-3) allowed one run in a career-high seven innings, and visiting St. Louis handed Miami its sixth consecutive defeat.

Phillies 7, Diamondbacks 4: Scott Kingery hit a three-run homer, Jake Arrieta (6-5) threw six effective innings and visiting Oakland beat Tampa Bay.

Indians 2, Reds 1 (10): Rookie Oscar Mercado hit a bases-loaded single with one out in the 10th inning, leading host Cleveland past Cincinnati in the intrastate matchup.

Rockies 3, Tigers 2: Jorge Soler had the tying RBI double in the eighth inning and Chesar Cuthbert followed with the go-ahead run-scoring single to lead host Kansas City over Detroit.

Twins 6, Mariners 5: Wellington Castillo hit a grand slam and top rookie Eloy Jimenez homered at home for the first time, powering host Chicago.

Royals 10, Cubs 3: Rookie Peter Lambert (2-0) went five strong innings and baffled Chicago for a second time in five days as host Colorado won its 10th straight at home.

Braves 7, Pirates 5 (8): Brian McCann hit one of his team's four homers in the second inning and took Pittsburgh starter Chris Archer deep again with a tiebreaking, three-run shot in the sixth to lead host Atlanta.

Giants 6, Padres 5: Evan Longoria hit a go-ahead, two-run double in the seventh inning and made a stellar defensive play in the ninth as host San Francisco rallied past San Diego.

Angels 5, Dodgers 3: Shohei Ohtani and Justin Bour homered off Kenta Maeda (7-3) in a five-run first inning, and the host Angels hung on to sweep the two-game Freeway Series over the Dodgers.
**Players to watch**

**DUSTIN JOHNSON**
- Age: 34
- Country: United States
- World ranking: 2
- Worldwide victories: 21
- US Open memory: highest finish was T7 in 2010

**BROOKS KOEPKA**
- Age: 28
- Country: United States
- World ranking: 1
- Worldwide victories: 9
- US Open memory: lowest finish was T9 in 2010

**JORDAN SPIETH**
- Age: 25
- Country: United States
- World ranking: 28
- Worldwide victories: 14
- US Open memory: second-best finish was T5 in 2013

**TIGER WOODS**
- Age: 43
- Country: United States
- World ranking: 5
- Worldwide victories: 82
- US Open memory: best finish was first place in 2002

**RORY MCKILROY**
- Age: 30
- Country: Northern Ireland
- World ranking: 4
- Worldwide victories: 23
- US Open memory: best finish was second place in 2010

**FRANCESCO MOLINARI**
- Age: 36
- Country: Italy
- World ranking: 7
- Worldwide victories: 8
- Majors: British Open (2018)

**JUSTIN THOMAS**
- Age: 26
- Country: United States
- World ranking: 6
- Worldwide victories: 9
- Majors: United States Open (2017)

**PATRICK CANTLAY**
- Age: 27
- Country: United States
- World ranking: 8
- Worldwide victories: 2
- Majors: None

**JUSTIN ROSE**
- Age: 39
- Country: England
- World ranking: 3
- Worldwide victories: 22

**PHIL MICKELSON**
- Age: 48
- Country: United States
- World ranking: 25
- Worldwide victories: 47

**By Eddie Pells, Associated Press**

**PEBBLE BEACH, Calif.** — Instead of winning more majors, Graeme McDowell has been focused on qualifying for them. And instead of enjoying what could have been the prime of his playing days on cruise control, McDowell has had to buckle down simply to keep his career going.

It was nine years ago that the up-and-comer from Northern Ireland donned his grey cardigan on Sunday at Pebble Beach, then held off Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson and Ernie Els to capture the U.S. Open. Some might say that victory, combined with a Ryder Cup-clinching performance later in the year, made McDowell’s career. What it really did was set the bar high, maybe too high, and set up McDowell to be bombarded by a steady stream of reminders about how hard this game really is.

After climbing to No. 6 in the world on the strength of his brilliant 2010, McDowell finished last year ranked 238th.

“When you start kind of … thinking, ‘I could be ready for the second stage of my life and my second career,’ it’s a conversation I had with myself middle of last year,” McDowell said. “And I started to realize I love being out here. And the vision of it going away, playing the way I was playing, it was going to go away quite soon.”

McDowell returns to site of 2010 win on upswing

There are signs McDowell, who turns 40 this summer, might be rebounding.

He notched his first victory since 2015 in March in the Dominican Republic — an opposite-field event while the top players were competing at the Match Play Championship.

Last week, he made a 30-foot putt on the final hole of the Canadian Open to secure his place in the British Open, which will be played next month on his home course in Northern Ireland, Royal Portrush. It will be his first appearance in either the Masters or British Open since 2016. His 10-year exemption to the U.S. Open, where he’s missed the cut four of the last six years, runs out after 2020.

Given his struggles, McDowell conceded his biggest goal for this year, other than making it to Royal Portrush, was simply to keep his PGA Tour card, which he accomplished with the win in March.

“When you start kind of … thinking, ‘I could be ready for the second stage of my life and my second career,’ it’s a conversation I had with myself middle of last year,” McDowell said. “And I started to realize I love being out here. And the vision of it going away, playing the way I was playing, it was going to go away quite soon.”
US OPEN

Match: Mickelson needs 1 major to join elite group

FROM BACK PAGE

“Whatever they’re doing, it’s working for me,” he said.

Go back more than a century to find the last player — the only player — to win the U.S. Open three straight times. Willie Anderson did it from 1903-05, when golf was so young in America that only 78 players showed up at Myopia Hunt outside Boston when he won his third in a row.

Since then, four other players have tried and failed to match Anderson’s mark.

Next up is Koepka, who is on the best run in the majors — he has won four of his last eight — since Woods was at his peak. Adding to the attention on Koepka was his victory last month in the PGA Championship at Bethpage Black, which looked and played like a U.S. Open. Of the four players who had a chance at three straight U.S. Opens, only Ralph Guldahl in 1939 won the previous major (Masters).

“I know what I’m chasing or trying to accomplish,” Koepka said. “It’s just another golf tournament. You can put some outside pressure on. It’s a major championship. I’ll be up for it, I know that. I enjoy a tough test of golf, and that’s what you’re going to get at a U.S. Open.

“I know the odds are against me to win it,” he said. “You just need to go out and take care of business. And if you don’t, hey, I gave it my all.

At least he has his name on the silver trophy — twice.

Mickelson would love nothing more than to win just one U.S. Open, the major that has teased him over the last 20 years and now keeps him from his place in history with the career Grand Slam and in the most elite group in golf. Woods, Nicklaus, Gary Player, Ben Hogan and Gene Sarazen are the only players who have won all four majors.

“You have to look at those guys differently,” he said. “And if I ever join that crowd — and the only way to do that is to win a U.S. Open — it would redefine my career.

This is Mickelson’s fifth crack at completing the slam, though two elements raise the ante at Pebble.

For starters, he turns 49 on Sunday and realizes his chances are dwindling. The oldest major champion was Julius Boros, who was 48 when he won the 1968 PGA Championship. The oldest U.S. Open champion was Hale Irwin, who won at age 45 in 1990. That was Mickelson’s first U.S. Open. He was low amateur that year, and probably wouldn’t have imagined he would reach 44 titles on the PGA Tour and not win a U.S. Open.

The other factor is Pebble Beach, where Mickelson won in February and tied the record with his fifth title in the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am. That’s played over two courses (two rounds at Pebble) in cooler, softer conditions than what he can expect this week.

More exclusive company awaits: Woods at Torrey Pines (2008) and Pebble Beach (2000), Nicklaus at Pebble Beach (1972) and Hogan at Riviera (1948) are the only players to win a PGA Tour event and U.S. Open on the same course in the same year.

Most eyeballs are on Woods anyway, especially now, especially here. He is the Masters champion and returns to the scene of the greatest exhibition in major championship history. He won the U.S. Open at Pebble Beach by 15 shots, breaking a major record that had been set in 1862. Woods not only was the first player to finish in double digits under par at a U.S. Open (12 under), he did it on a course where no one else broke par that week to make the Open different and strategically different.

“Open has changed,” he said. “I thought it was just narrow fairways, hit it in the fairway or back out, move on. Now there’s chipping areas around the greens. There’s less rough, gradient surfaces, the redesigned par-3 14th — that a competitive round or two across one of the world’s most iconic layouts certainly couldn’t hurt.

“I’ve hit 7-iron on 7 here at Pebble before, ” Thomas said of one of his rare tee shots, back in 2014, on the tiny par-3 that juts into the ocean and is among the most photographed golf holes in the world. “It was blowing about 30 (mph) and it was raining. It was 90-yarddees, and it wasn’t very fun. You can have some interesting rounds out here.”

Much is made of the list of players who have won the U.S. Open on what is viewed as an iconic U.S. Open course: Jack Nicklaus, Tom Watson, Tom Kite, Tiger Woods and Graeme McDowell. Of those five, all had played at least 10 competitive rounds at Pebble before their victories; all but McDowell had previously won the pro-am.

It’s just golf, ” Thomas said. “You have to drive it in the fairway, you have to hit the green, you have to make the putts, and you have to do it in less strokes than everybody else in four days. And if you do, they give you a pretty nice trophy and a nice check on Sunday."
No pressure

Koepka can match 114-year-old record by winning third straight

BY DOUG FERGUSON
Associated Press

The U.S. Open's return to Pebble Beach coincides with the 100-year anniversary of the course with the most famous coastline in American golf. Where Jack Nicklaus said he would go if he had only one more round to play. Where Tiger Woods delivered his greatest display of dominance.

Not even the vivid scenery of the Monterey Peninsula can remove the pressure that accompanies any U.S. Open, though. For this one, there is plenty to go around.

When the USGA announced nine years ago a return to Pebble Beach, officials had no idea just how much history would be at stake for the 119th U.S. Open.

Brooks Koepka can match a record that has stood for more than a century by winning for the third straight time. Phil Mickelson gets perhaps his best chance — maybe his last one — to become only the sixth player with the career Grand Slam. Also feeling the pressure is the USGA to end a bad run of complaints and chaos in the U.S. Open.

"If they can't redeem themselves at Pebble Beach, then there could be a problem," said Rory McIlroy, a comment that reflects how players feel about Pebble Beach and how much faith in the USGA has eroded the past few years.

Koepka seems to be the least bothered by the U.S. Open changing its look (Erin Hills) or repeating mistakes (Shinnecock Hills), perhaps because he keeps winning.

Brooks Koepka reacts to a putt on the third green during the final round of the PGA Championship on May 19 at Bethpage Black in Farmingdale, N.Y.

JULIO CORTEZ/AP