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**STARS AND STRIPES**
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**2 more vessels struck**
Navy assists after tankers damaged near Strait of Hormuz amid Iran-US tensions

**By Jon Gambrell**
Associated Press

**Dubai, United Arab Emirates**
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**By John Vandiver**
Stars and Stripes

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Trump on Wednesday differed from talking points about the plan, which a senior White House official told reporters Tuesday would involve a modest increase of 1,000 troops sent to Poland on a rotational basis to help with planning, surveillance and logistics.

Trump, during a meeting with Polish President Andrzej Duda, said the number could be as high as 2,000 and that he was considering relocating forces from Germany to accomplish the mission.

Despite the tough talk on Germany, which Trump has repeatedly blasted for weak defense spending, allies in Europe saw the plan for more troops in Poland as a positive sign.

“Two more vessels struck” NATO greets Trump’s Poland troop plan warmly

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President Donald Trump shakes hands with Polish President Andrzej Duda during a news conference in the Rose Garden of the White House on Wednesday.
Trump shares new Air Force One mock-ups

**By John Wagner**

The Washington Post

President Trump shared mock-ups of an Air Force One with a new paint scheme — featuring colors remarkably similar to those on his private jet — on a television interview broadcast Thursday as Democratic lawmakers moved to impede such a change.

“Take a look at this,” Trump said to ABC News anchor George Stephanopoulos as he displayed some options for the makeover. “Here’s your new Air Force One.”

The mock-ups swap out the current sky blue and white for a color scheme that includes red, white and navy, in nearly identical shades that appear on the jet that Trump used to fly around the country during his 2016 campaign.

The interview, conducted in the Oval Office, was broadcast a day after a House committee voted to require congressional approval for changes to the Air Force One paint scheme and interior design. It’s unclear whether the provision will remain in the bill by the time it gets to Trump’s desk.

Democrats on the House Armed Services Committee voiced concerns about the potential cost of any changes and said they were hesitant to abandon an iconic design that emerged during the tenure of President John F. Kennedy.

Republicans said Democrats were taking a partisan shot at Trump.

A pair of heavily modified Boeing 747s that carry the moniker Air Force One when the president is on board have been in use since 1990. Trump negotiated a deal with Boeing for two new planes at a cost of $3.9 billion.

The Air Force has projected the new planes will come online in 2024.

Trump shared his intention to change the color scheme in a July interview with CBS, in which he said the revamped aircraft would be “top of the line, the top in the world, and it’s going to be red, white and blue, which I think is appropriate.”

“I said, ‘I wonder if we should use the same baby blue colors,’ And we’re not,” Trump added.

**Poland:** Trump warns of possible relocation of US troops out of Germany, other countries

**FROM FRONT PAGE**

Baltic nations, once part of the Soviet Union, have been particularly concerned about Russia’s intentions since the 2014 invasion and annexation of Crimea, which was also a former Soviet territory.

“This is an important step and display of US commitment to European security and deterrence. Estonia wholeheartedly embraces this decision that goes to further strengthen the transatlantic bond and cooperation between NATO allies,” Estonian Foreign Minister Urmas Reinsalu said in a tweet.

Lithuanian Foreign Minister Linas Antanas Linkevicius echoed the viewpoint in a tweet, saying the decision contributes to the “Alliance’s deterrence and defense posture and benefitting the security of all NATO Allies.”

However, Trump’s threat to shift forces from Germany or another country to carry out the mission was left unaddressed by allies.

In Germany, there was no official response Thursday to Trump’s comments. Underscoring the differences between Washington and Berlin, one day ahead of Trump’s Poland announcement, Germany Foreign Minister Heiko Maas was in Tehran trying to salvage a nuclear deal with Iran that the U.S. withdrew from.

While not addressing Trump’s threat to transfer troops out of Germany, head of the country’s conservative Christian Democratic Union party, Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, said Wednesday that Trump’s comments about German defense spending are valid.

“It is about mutual trust. It is also about the question if Germany is a responsible partner,” Kramp-Karrenbauer said at the German-American conference in Berlin.

In Germany, however, there is a lack of political consensus about ramping up defense spending.

Trump on Wednesday emphasized that the U.S. will not add forces in Europe but will relocate them from other places. Details on the deployments are being determined.

“We haven’t totally made up a decision,” Trump said.

However, Trump linked coming troop increases in Poland to Warsaw’s efforts to elevate defense expenditures to NATO’s benchmark, which calls for dedicating 2% of gross domestic product to military spending.

The issue is a top NATO priority for Trump. Germany was singled out by Trump for falling short.

“Germany is not living up to what they’re supposed to be doing with respect to NATO and Poland is,” Trump said.

Trump added that Poland would build a new facility to accommodate more U.S. troops in the country, but he demurred when asked whether it would be named “Fort Trump” as Poland offered when it proposed the idea last year.

“No, that’s up to them. They can name it whatever they want,” Trump said.

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**PCSing? STARS AND STRIPES RELOCATION GUIDE**

Every Friday in the European and Pacific editions of Stars and Stripes AND online daily at www.stripes.com/relo
Officials: US airstrike kills 6 Afghan allies

By J.P. Lawrence
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — A U.S. airstrike killed six Afghan soldiers between late Tuesday night and early Wednesday after an exchange of gunfire between alled forces, according to Afghan officials and statements by U.S. Forces-Afghanistan.

The deaths mark the third reported mistaken American bombing on Afghan troops in 92 days. Prior to the bombing, a joint American and Afghan patrol was moving through Kunduz province at night sometime between Tuesday and Wednesday, an Afghan defense spokesman told Stars and Stripes.

Another group of Afghan National Army soldiers saw the armed men and began firing their machine guns at the joint patrol, leading them to request air support, Maj. Gen. David Butler, a spokesman for U.S. Forces-Afghanistan, told the website Task & Purpose on Wednesday.

Six Afghan soldiers died in the bombardment, Ministry of Defense spokesman Zubair Aref said.

A local government official in Kunduz disputed the number of casualties, saying that four soldiers were killed and another five were wounded.

This operation was extensive planned and coordinated with U.S. and Afghan security forces to prevent an event like this from occurring,” Butler said, according to Task & Purpose. “We regret the tragic loss of our Afghan partners.”

The Pentagon plans on convening a joint investigation board to determine the details of the incident, according to Task & Purpose.

The incident comes less than a month after U.S. air support killed as many as 17 Afghan policemen and wounded 14 more in an incident in Helmand province.

A statement from the U.S.-led NATO Resolute Support mission said then that an Afghan unit on the ground had told coalition forces the area was clear of friendly forces.

“Unfortunately, they were not and a tragic accident resulted,” the statement read.

In mid-March, Afghan soldiers at a checkpoint in the country’s southern Uruzgan province fired on a patrol of their own troops and American advisors, leading to a firefight and an airstrike that left at least five Afghan soldiers dead and nine wounded, military officials in Kabul said.

Both sides thought they were battling Taliban attackers, according to The New York Times.

Zubair Babakarkhail contributed to this report.

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General: Islamic State in Afghanistan aims to attack US homeland

By Robert Burns
Associated Press

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — Islamic State in Afghanistan is a “very worrisome” threat to the United States, and U.S. counterterrorism efforts have yet to shrink its extremist ambitions, a senior American general said Wednesday.

Maj. Gen. Frank McKenzie said ISIS would be hard pressed, however, to carry out an attack on the U.S. homeland because it is under strong military pressure.

“ISIS in Afghanistan certainly has aspirations to attack the United States,” McKenzie said. “It is our clear judgment that as long as we maintain pressure on them it will not happen anytime soon.”

McKenzie, head of U.S. Central Command with responsibility for managing American military operations across the greater Middle East, spoke in Germany with reporters returning home with him from an eight-day trip that took him to Qatar, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt. He also spent two days aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier in the North Arabian Sea.

“He stopped at Germany’s Ramstein air base to refuel his airplane before flying to his headquarters in Florida,” The New York Times quoted McKenzie as saying.

Earlier this week, the Associated Press cited U.S. and Afghan security officials in reporting that Islamic State in Afghanistan is expanding its footprint, recruiting new fighters and plotting attacks on the United States and other Western countries.

McKenzie, a veteran of combat in Afghanistan and Iraq, said he believes ISIS in Afghanistan has not expanded its capabilities but remains a big problem.

“They are very worrisome to us” in their strongholds in eastern Afghanistan, he said, adding that combat operations have failed to reduce the group’s fighting ranks.

Others have said they are thought to number in the thousands.

The Islamic State affiliate appeared in Afghanistan shortly after the group’s core fighters swept across Syria and Iraq in the summer of 2014, carving out a spot it has claimed for the last six years.

Afghanistan overtakes Syria as least peaceful nation, report says

By J.P. Lawrence
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghanistan is now the least peaceful country in the world and its people are losing confidence in its security forces, according to a new report by an Australia-based think tank.

The country supplanted Syria, which was the least peaceful in 2018. The two countries join South Sudan, Yemen and Iraq in the five least peaceful countries, the new report by the Institute of Economics and Peace said in a report released Wednesday.

The report assigns countries a peacefulness score based on perceptions of safety, the presence of armed conflict, and on how much of the country is militarized.

For the first time in five years, the average level of global peacefulness rose in 2018, which the report said was due to conflicts in Ukraine and Syria winding down. The report noted that while the number of conflicts has risen since 2015, due to a rise in nongovernmental groups fighting each other, the total number of deaths from all conflicts has fallen by a quarter.

Afghanistan became the deadliest spot in the world for terrorism since 2015, due to a rise in the same institute in December: That report noted that one in every four people who died from an act of terrorism in 2017 lived in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan has been at war for much of the last four decades, with American troops fighting in the country since 2001.

Security-related incidents were up 39% during the winter fighting season, compared to a year earlier, according to the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project’s data.

In the past year, Afghanistan had the largest deterioration in confidence in the local police among all nations surveyed, falling by 32 percentage points.

In the five years since most U.S. troops left Afghanistan, confidence in the Afghan military has fallen over 31 percentage points.

People in Afghanistan are also more worried about street crime. Over the last 10 years, people feel less safe, with the average percentage of respondents who say they feel safe walking alone at night falling by 20%.

U.S. diplomats, led by peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad, have met with Taliban representatives in recent months for several rounds of direct talks that have progressed further than any previous negotiations.

The Trump administration’s South Asia strategy is focused on finding a diplomatic solution to end the conflict and includes an accelerated U.S. bombing campaign against Taliban targets, aimed at pushing the insurgents to the negotiation table.

The talks have not yet includ ed the government in Kabul, which the Taliban views as a U.S. puppet.

Over a period of 10 years, global peacefulness has declined due to an uptick in terrorism and internal conflict, the report by the Institute of Economics and Peace said.

More people around the world feel they have more freedom in life and their countries are better places to live for ethnic and religious minorities, according to polls cited by the report. However, those polled said that daily feelings of sadness, worry and stress have increased over the same period.

Iceland remains the most peaceful country in the world, a spot it has claimed for the last decade.

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**Panel approves new program for sex assault cases**

**BY JASON DICK**  
CQ-Roll Call

WASHINGTON — Advocates of taking the decision for prosecution out of the command scored a significant victory Wednesday when the House Armed Services Committee approved a pilot program that would do just that at the service academies.

Rep. Jackie Speier, chairwoman of the Military Personnel Subcommittee, pushed through a four-year program that would require the commandants of the service academies to follow the recommendation of an independent prosecutor in cases of sexual assault.

"The number of sexual assaults at the military service academies has more than doubled — from 327 to 747 (from) 2013 to 2018," Speier said. "Over that time, reporting rates increased from 16% to 12%.

Speier’s amendment would authorize a special prosecutor to handle sexual assaults at the military academies, marking her first legislative victory in her yearslong effort to take the decision for prosecution out of the chain of command.

"The number of sexual assaults at the military service academies has more than doubled — from 327 to 747 (from) 2013 to 2018," Speier said. "Over that time, reporting rates decreased from 16% to 12%.

Speier’s proposal would require the commandants of the service academies to accept the determinations of an outside prosecutor in cases of sexual assault. But removing these cases from the chain of command has proved controversial both on Capitol Hill and at the Pentagon.


"You start changing the criminal justice system within the military academies, marking her first legislative effort to make the chain of command scored a significant victory" that chain of command, but ultimately prevailed on a mostly party-line vote.

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"You start changing the criminal justice system within the military academies, marking her first legislative effort to make the chain of command scored a significant victory"
OKLAHOMA CITY — A U.S. Army base in Oklahoma that the federal government says will temporarily house children crossing the border without their parents was used during World War II as a Japanese internment camp.

Historical data from the National Park Service and private organizations show Fort Sill was among at least 14 Army and Department of Justice facilities nationwide where Japanese Americans and Japanese immigrants were interned. The Army’s War Relocation Authority held about 120,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans in “relocation centers” during the war with Japan.

Tom Ikeda, executive director of Densho, an organization that documents the history of the United States’ internment of Japanese people, referred to Fort Sill as “a place layered in trauma.” He pointed to its use as a boarding school for Native American children and as a prisoner-of-war camp for Apache tribal members.

“Ikeda’s perspective echoed calls last year from state and federal leaders and locals who objected to the Trump administration looking into housing immigrant children near the site of a former internment camp in Rohwer, Arkansas. Those plans were scrapped.

The Office of Refugee Resettlement, overseen by the Department of Health and Human Services, said Tuesday it plans to house up to 1,400 migrant children at Fort Sill, near Lawton, Okla., about 90 miles southwest of Oklahoma City.

An emailed request for comment Wednesday from Health and Human Services was not returned. In a letter dated Wednesday, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar and acting Homeland Security Secretary Kevin McAleenan asked Congress to appropriate $4.5 billion in emergency funding requested to “address the immediate humanitarian crisis at our southern border.”

Record numbers of unaccompanied children have been arriving at the border, largely from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. In May, border agents apprehended 11,507 children traveling alone. The Office of Refugee Resettlement has come under fire for the death of two children who went through the agency’s network of shelters and is facing lawsuits over the treatment of teens in its care. The office has said it must set up new facilities to accommodate new arrivals or risk running out of beds.

Darrell Ames, spokesman for Fort Sill, said the post’s information indicates that following America’s entry into World War II the government directed the base to build internment camps for Japanese Americans, but nothing in the record reflects the camps were actually occupied by Japanese Americans. Instead, the camps were used by prisoners of war from Japan, Germany and Italy.

Officials at the Fort Sill National Historic Landmark & Museum said they have no information about the base’s use as an internment or POW camp because that part of its history is not part of its mission statement.

Shawn Iwaoaka, who works in collections at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles, said confusion abounds because camps were referred to by different names, including “relocation centers” or “detention camps” and because the camp at Fort Sill was much smaller than camps such as Manzanar in California, which housed thousands of people. The museum’s collection includes letters a man detained at Fort Sill wrote to his wife at another camp in California with a pre-preprinted label that said “internee of war.”

“The euphemisms were rampant to kind of soften what they really were. The museum’s position is that they should be called concentration camps,” Iwaoaka said.

During another migration surge in 2014, the Obama administration also used Fort Sill to house unaccompanied migrant children.
The U.S. Navy, which rushed to assist the stricken vessels in the Gulf of Oman off the coast of Iran, and the ship's operators offered no immediate explanation on what weapons caused the damage or who used them against the MT Front Altair and the Kokuka Courageous. Each was loaded with petroleum products, and the Front Altair burned for hours, a fire that charred half of one of the vessel's sides and sent up a column of thick, black smoke.

Last month, the U.S. alleged that Iran used limpet mines to attack four oil tankers off the nearby Emirati port of Fujairah. Iran denied being involved and its foreign minister called the timing of Thursday's incidents suspicious, given that President Donald Trump and his Prime Minister Shinzo Abe were meeting Supreme Leader Ayatolah Ali Khamenei in Iran.

Iran used mines against oil tankers in 1987 and 1988 in the “Tanker War,” during which the U.S. Navy escorted ships through the region. Regardless of who is responsible, the price of a barrel of benchmark Brent crude spiked 9 percent over Thursday's close, to $63.90 a barrel, the most in two months, with Washington defending the deployment of the USS Abraham Lincoln carrier strike group and a bomber task force in response to “a number of troubling and escalatory indications and warnings,” without providing details. It threatens “unrelenting force” in response to any attack.

The tanker Front Altair burns in the Sea of Oman on Thursday.

**Vessels: Iran denies involvement**

**FROM FRONT PAGE**

The shipping industry views this as an escalation of the situation, and we are just about as close to a conflict without there being an actual armed conflict, so the tensions are very high,” said Jakob P. Larsen, head of maritime security for BIMCO, the largest international association representing the shipping industry.

The suspected attacks happened at dawn Thursday about 25 miles off the coast of Fujairah, a western town of Abha. The Houthis in Yemen claimed responsibility for the attack and launched a “bomber task force in response to a reported attack,” and its target was the U.S. Navy’s “program in the region,” without elaborating.

The U.S. Navy sent a USS Bainbridge, to assist, said Cmdr. Joshua Frey, a 5th Fleet spokesman. He described the ships as being hit in a “reported attack,” without elaborating.

U.S. President Donald Trump “has been briefed on the attack,” said White House press secretary Sarah Sanders. “The U.S. government is providing assistance and will continue to assess the situation.”

**Frontline**, the firm that operates the Front Altair, said it was an attack from Iran in a protective statement.

Associated Press

Tensions between the United States and Iran have soared in recent weeks, with Washington dispatching warships and bombers around the Persian Gulf, and Tehran threatening to resume higher uranium enrichment. The tensions come a year after President Donald Trump withdrew from Iran’s 2015 nuclear accord with world powers and restored crippling sanctions. A series of recent attacks has Israel’s defense minister warning of a possible conflict.

**May 5:** John Bolton, the White House national security adviser and a longtime Iran hawk, announces the deployment of the USS Abraham Lincoln carrier strike group and a bomber task force in response to “a number of troubling and escalatory indications and warnings,” without providing details. It threatens “unrelenting force” in response to any attack.

**May 8:** Iran vows to enrich its uranium stockpile close to weapons-grade levels, starting July 7. Iranian nuclear powers fail to negotiate new terms for its nuclear deal.

**May 10:** The U.S. says it will move a Patriot missile battery into the Middle East to counter threats from Iran.

**May 12:** The United Arab Emirates says four commercial ships off its eastern coast were hit by “sabotage operations,” just hours after Iranian and Lebanese media reported attacks.

**May 13:** European foreign ministers urge the United States and Iran to show restraint, while Secretary of State Mike Pompeo briefs his counterparts on the alleged threats from Iran. Trump warns that if Tehran does “anything” in the form of an attack “they will suffer greatly.”

**May 14:** Yemen’s Iran-aligned Houthis launch a drone attack on Saudi Arabia, striking a major oil pipeline and taking out its service.

**May 24:** Trump says the U.S. will bolster its military presence in the Middle East with an additional 1,500 troops. He says the troops will have a “mostly protective” role.

**May 27:** General Keith Alexander, the former head of the NSA, and that Iran’s Revolutionary Guard was responsible for the explosions of the oil tankers in the Gulf of Oman, and that Iranian proxies in Iraq fired rockets into Baghdad.

**June 1:** Saudi Arabia’s King Salman hosts three high-level summits in Mecca, drawing heads of state from across the Middle East and Muslim countries and meeting with both Palestinian and Arab position on Iran. The monarch calls on the international community to repair the damage done to civilians and accuses the Shiite power of being behind “terrorist operations” that targeted Saudi oil interests.

**June 7:** A Saudi military operation in the United States-led coalition fighting Islamic State says there’s been no increased threat from Iranian-backed forces in Iraq and Syria.” In a rare public rebuttal, U.S. Central Command says his remarks “run counter to the identified credible threat.”

**May 15:** The U.S. Embassy in Baghdad orders all nonessential government staff to leave Iraq immediately, warning that the U.S. military is no longer a safe destination.

**May 16:** Saudi Arabia blames Iran for the drone attack on its pipeline and an English-language newspaper close to the palace calls for the United States to launch “surgical” strikes in retaliation.

**May 19:** Trump says he hopes the U.S. is not on a path to war with Iran, that he fears that his top military advisers could be angling for a conflict with the Islamic Republic. Asked if the U.S. was going to war with Iran, the president replied, “I hope not” — a day after he repeated a desire for dialogue, tweeting, “I pray that Iran will want to talk soon.”

**May 20:** Semi-official media in Iran report that it has quadrupled the stockpile of 205 tons of low-enriched uranium, which is used for civilian applications but not nuclear weapons. Iran is allowed to enrich uranium to the low level of 5.67%, but increased production could lead it to exceed the stockpile limits in the nuclear deal.

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**June 13:** Two oil tankers near the strategic Strait of Hormuz were reportedly attacked in an assault that left one ablaze and adrift as 44 sailors were evacuated from the vessels and the U.S. Navy rushed to assist.

**June 15:** Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatolah Ali Khamenei says “no one is behind the attack,” and that Iranian proxies in Iraq fired rockets into Baghdad.

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MILITARY

Admiral defends removing head of Naval War College

BY JENNIFER McDERMOTT
Associated Press

NEWPORT, R.I. — The Navy’s top admiral said Wednesday that he felt he had enough information to warrant removing the president of the Naval War College from his post this week, days after The Associated Press reported on the investigation at the college and more than a year after the initial complaint was filed.

The AP reported last week that the college president, Rear Adm. Jeffrey Harley, was under investigation for allegedly spending excessively, abusing his hiring authority and otherwise behaving inappropriately, including keeping a margarita machine in his office. Harley was removed from his post Monday.

Adm. John Richardson, the chief of naval operations, told the AP in an interview that he received reports from investigators around the same time the article was published.

“arrest or release the accuser,” he said. “But there was just enough actionable information at that point that I made the decision that I did.”

A small group of longtime college employees filed an anonymous complaint about Harley in April 2018 with the Navy’s office of the inspector general. The group contacted the inspector general again in January with additional allegations of Harley flouting Navy rules and norms.

Richardson called the AP report “responsible and balanced.” He was at the college in Newport to speak to students about leadership.

The college on Monday postponed a strategy forum that was due to start Tuesday and had been expected to draw high-ranking officials, including Richardson, along with hundreds of guests. Navy Secretary Richard V. Spencer is still scheduled to speak Friday at the graduation ceremony for the elite school, which grows future admirals and generals.

Postponing the forum was a big decision, Richardson said, but it was very disruptive for the college leadership to change in the way that it did. It would have been a lot to ask of the college to continue with the forum, he added.

Provost Lewis M. Duncan has temporarily assumed the president’s duties.

Emails obtained by the AP show the college has struggled to make payroll under Harley’s leadership and spent about $725,000 annually on raises while facing an annual shortfall of $5 million or more.

Harley told the AP the college was under fiscal strain because the Navy hasn’t fully funded new missions.

Richardson said Wednesday that as a rule, the Navy isn’t going to direct anyone to take on a mission without ensuring they have the resources to do it.

Harley declined last week to answer a series of questions about the allegations, including his use of a margarita machine. He downplayed the complaints in a campuswide email, saying that they were from “a few individuals” and that all his decisions were subject to legal review and within his authority.

Richardson said that he could not say exactly when the investigation would finish, but that he recognizes it has been going on for a while and it “would be good to bring this to closure.” He is aware, he said, of only one open investigation involving the war college.

The war college is doing an important mission and must remain “very sound,” Richardson said.

“We’ll come through this,” he said. “The college will continue to be a strong and vibrant institution of learning, focused on those things that the Navy needs to educate its leaders on. And in the end, we’ll be stronger than we are right now.”

Richardson hopes to pick a new president for the college before his own tour ends in six weeks.

House rejects funding for low-yield nukes

WASHINGTON — House Democrats rebuffed attempts by Republicans on Wednesday to authorize funding for so-called low-yield nuclear weapons that the Trump administration says are key to deterring Russia.

Republicans put forward two amendments to fund the weapons in a defense bill, but both were rejected in a voice vote Wednesday. A formal roll-call vote on the amendments was planned for later.

Armed Services Committee Chairman Adam Smith, D-Wash., eliminated funding in the legislation for low-yield nuclear weapons that could be placed on submarines. He said the weapons increase the likelihood of nuclear conflict.

Republican Rep. Liz Cheney of Wyoming accused Smith of “disarming” America. “It is unilateral disarmament by definition,” Cheney said. “This is a capability that our adversaries have, it is a capability that they have the ability to deploy.”

The Trump administration has taken a number of steps away from traditional nuclear arms control, including the adoption of a nuclear strategy that involves developing new weapons to counter Russia and the suspension of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty with Russia. Critics warn the steps could spark another nuclear arms race.

The top Republican on the committee, Mac Thornberry of Texas, spoke out in support of the nuclear weapons and said the chairman’s opposition reflects “this underlying notion that we’ve got to tie our own hands and therefore the world will be safer.”

Nuclear policy issues will likely reemerge in the Republican-controlled Senate. The House and Senate will have to negotiate a final version of the annual policy bill before it becomes law.

In a year

The defense bill is also expected to address the future of the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, detention center.

Republicans and Democrats also disagree over the total amount of money needed to fund the Pentagon and nuclear elements of the Energy Department. The White House requested a $750 billion budget, but Smith said a slightly smaller budget of $733 billion would promote efficiency.
New commander takes over Horn of Africa mission

By Chad Garland
Stars and Stripes

CAMP LEMONNIER, Djibouti — Army Maj. Gen. Michael D. Turello assumed command of U.S. military efforts in East Africa, where a proposal may shift the mission focus from multinational training and counterterrorism to a permanent presence that seeks to strengthen American influence on the continent.

“I am confident in Mike’s genuine leadership and his ability to take care of our service members and civilians to ensure they are successful,” U.S. Africa Command’s Gen. Thomas D. Waldhauser said during the change of command ceremony at Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti, the U.S. military’s main operational hub in Africa.

Turello replaced Army Maj. Gen. James D. Craig on Wednesday at the helm of Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa.

His new role puts him in charge of an organization that officials say could soon see changes to its mission.

The proposed transition of the command to Joint Task Force-Africa has yet to be cleared by the Pentagon, AFRICOM said in a statement on Thursday. Officials declined to discuss details of the proposal, including its budget and resources.

The mission in the Horn of Africa began in 2002 as part of the U.S. response to the 9/11 attacks. Though its focus has shifted over the years, one of its primary missions has been helping battle al-Shabab, an al-Qaida aligned terrorist group in Somalia that has been vying for control of that country for more than a decade.

Making the task force permanent would expand its area of operations beyond a 2.4-million-square-mile chunk of East Africa comprised of 12 countries, CJTF-HOA officials told Stars and Stripes.

While it would still help combat violent extremists in the region, the proposed permanent mission’s main focus would be to maintain partnerships with African countries — competing with China and Russia for influence — and to protect U.S. interests, such as embassies. China established a support base in Djibouti, about four miles from the base where CJTF-HOA is located, in 2017.

In 2014, the U.S. secured a 10-year lease at Lemmonier with an option to extend for another 20 years, ensuring a U.S. presence in the region for decades to come.

The base houses about 4,500 U.S. troops and contractors and employs more than 1,100 Djiboutians. A bilateral agreement grants the U.S. military access to port facilities and the Djiboutian capital’s small airport.

During the change of command, both Waldhauser and Turello praised outgoing commander Craig.

“I would serve with you in any battle, at any time and in any place,” said Turello, who began his career as a Marine officer.

“You are a credit to our nation,” Waldhauser hailed Craig’s “unwavering dedication” to the mission, including in Somalia, where some 500 U.S. troops are supporting efforts to defeat al-Shabab, and for shepherding the command’s response to Cyclone Idai in March.

In his last address to the command, Craig thanked his leadership team, units and staff, and noted several accomplishments, including the construction of a women’s medical clinic in Ali Oune, Djibouti.

“Every day brings its challenges and I have witnessed firsthand your ability to rise to each one that is thrown your way,” Craig said. “You’ve all provided me with great support; what I ask is that you provide that to Maj. Gen. Turello as well.”

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Report: Military lags on weather risk assessment

By Caitlin M. Kenney
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — After several bases suffered devastating effects from extreme weather last year, a government report released Wednesday found that the military has not consistently assessed weather risks or incorporated climate change projections into its construction projects.

The Government Accountability Office conducted the study from April 2018 to June 2019 to assess the Defense Department’s progress in developing ways to incorporate the potential for damaging weather into the design of facility projects. The Defense Department has said that climate change is a national security issue and a threat to their operations and installations, according to the report. The study looked at DOD documents and examined 23 bases that had one or more climate vulnerabilities.

The DOD costs of rebuilding after recent extreme weather events, which are expected to last several years. Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida faces an estimated $3 billion over five years in repairs after Hurricane Michael, a Category 5 hurricane, that hit in October. Camp Lejeune in North Carolina estimates its recovery will cost $3.6 billion over five years in repairs after Hurricane Florence in September.

The study found that 15 of the 23 bases had considered some weather effects in their master plans as required by the Defense Department. For example, the report said, Fort Irwin in California had improved stormwater drainage after flash flooding caused significant damage to infrastructure, but Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in Hawaii did not make similar considerations in planning, even though the location faces tropical storms and sea levels are anticipated to rise.

One of the documents highlighted in the study was a 2014 DOD survey of bases and the extreme weather effects they face. It provided a preliminary assessment based on past weather experiences, but it did not analyze climate change impacts on infrastructure projects, according to the report.

The study also found that most bases had not used climate projections because they did not have guidance on how to incorporate them in their master plans. “Not assessing risks or using climate projections in installation planning may expose DOD facilities to greater-than-anticipated damage or degradation as a result of extreme weather or climate-related effects,” the report states.

Eleven of the 23 bases had designed one or more facility projects to be resilient to extreme weather and climate change, but they did not incorporate climate change projections into the designs. The study found only one project, a pier at Naval Base San Diego in California, that did include climate projections in the design, but it was only considered after the project’s contractor provided projections on sea level rise. The installation decided to raise the pier a foot beyond what was planned.

The GAO study made eight recommendations, including that the military services work together to update master planning guidance to require assessment of extreme weather and climate change risks, and that DOD provide guidance on how to incorporate climate projections into planning and project designs.

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Police: GI in military gears fires into home

LAUREL HILL, N.C. — Authorities in North Carolina say an active-duty soldier wearing military-issued ballistic gear opened fire into a home and was then wounded by return gunfire and injured in a car accident.

News outlets report Eric Jerrod Davis, 24, a soldier at Fort Bragg, was charged with attempted murder Wednesday. Scotland County Sheriff’s investigators say he fired into a home early Sunday morning.

Authorities say he targeted someone inside the home and perhaps a vehicle outside. Davis was wounded when someone fired back, and then crashed his car while fleeing. Davis was reported “in a critical state and highly unstable,” at a hospital.

The Associated Press

First chemical weapon destroyed at Ky. facility

RICHMOND, Ky. — Officials have begun destroying Cold War-era chemical weapons that have been stored at a Kentucky Army depot for decades.

The facility at the Blue Grass Army Depot successfully destroyed five mustard-agent munitions Friday on Richmond.

It marked the beginning of the facility’s static detonation institutional operations, which will handle munitions that are unsuitable for automated destruction at the depot’s pilot plant.

The depot has a stockpile of about 253 tons of mustard, GB and VX nerve agent. The pilot plant was idled in 2015, but operators and staff trained for nine years to prepare for the destruction operations.

Suicide bomber kills 9 in eastern Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan — A suicide bomber walked up to an Afghan police vehicle in Jalalabad, the capital of eastern Nangarhar province, and detonated an explosive device that killed three police and six civilians on Thursday, said provincial health department official Shoaib Sahak.

He said another 13 people were wounded, some of the seriously.

Attaullah Khogyani, spokesman for the provincial governor, said the bomber was also a target of the attack. Several of the injured were police, he said.

No one took immediate responsibility for the bomb attack, but the Islamic State affiliate known as Islamic State Khorasan Province and the Taliban operate in Nangarhar province, considered an ISIS stronghold.

Afghanistan’s security forces continue to be under direct attacks by both Taliban and ISIS-affiliated fighters. Afghan forces have suffered staggering casualties in recent years, even as the Taliban hold peace talks with the U.S. Peace Envoy Zalmay Khalilzad.

From The Associated Press
Turkey rejects US warning over its Russia weapon deal

Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — Turkey's foreign minister said Thursday his country won't bow to "ultimatums" after the United States warned Turkey it was excluding it from the F-35 fighter jet program over its decision to purchase its S-400 missile defense system.

U.S. Acting Defense Secretary Pat Shanahan said in a letter to his Turkish counterpart last week that the training of Turkish pilots will end July 31 and that Turkey would lose its place in the F-35 program without the S-400 purchase.

Speaking to reporters at a joint news conference with his French counterpart, Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian, Shanahan reiterated that Turkey would lose its place in the F-35 program, but said that decision was for the U.S. military.

Shanahan also warned that Ankara's purchase of the Russian system could hamper America's future relationship with Turkey, a NATO member which has been a critical U.S. partner and base for combat operations, including for the war in Syria.

Washington insists the Russian missile defense system poses a security risk to the F-35 program. The issue has strained already tenuously ties between the United States and Turkey.

Turkey's presidency said it would end its deal with Russia if the United States pulls out of the F-35 program. It has received the third batch of Russian-made S-400 air defenses.

The United States has threatened to impose sanctions on Turkey if it proceeds with the S-400 deal. Turkey insists the purchase is not a threat to the alliance and that it is not against the United States in any way.

No one covers the bases the way we do.

Reading Stars and Stripes gives you a better handle on issues that affect you most.
Police, crowd face off after Tenn. shooting

By Adrian Sainz
Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Armed officers and an angry crowd faced off after a Tennessee man was fatally shot by U.S. Marshals in a working-class Memphis neighborhood.

People in the crowd threw rocks and bricks, with 25 officers suffering mostly minor injuries during the tense clash Wednesday night in the Frayser community in north Memphis. Officers continued to walk near the scene. By 11 p.m., officers had used tear gas and most of the crowd dispersed, police director Michael Rallings said at a Thursday morning news conference. Three people were arrested.

Officers on horseback patrolled the area, and lines of police cars with flashing blue lights were parked along the street. An ambulance could be seen at the outer edge of the scene. A helicopter flew overhead as police cars trickled away. Rows of police were blocked, and a heavy police presence remained in the area Thursday.

Tennessee Bureau of Investigation spokeswoman Keli McAlister said the Gulf Coast Regional Fusion Center and the TBI were working to look for a suspect with felony warrants. Marshals saw the man get into a vehicle and then proceed to ram task force vehicles several times before exiting with a weapon, McAlister said. Marshals then opened fire, killing the man who died at the scene. McAlister did not say how many marshals fired or how many times the man was shot.

One local official identified the victim as Brandon Webber and said he was shot several times in his family's front yard. Family members confirmed to the Daily Memphian that the 21-year-old Webber died.

Actor Glover to testify at slavery reparations hearing

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The topic of reparations for slavery is headed to Capitol Hill for its first hearing in more than a decade with actor Ta-Nehisi Coates and author Danny Glover set to testify before a House panel.

The House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties is scheduled to hold the hearing next Wednesday, its stated purpose “to examine, through open and constructive discourse, the legacy of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, its continuing impact on the community and the path to restorative justice.”

The administration has turned over more than 17,000 pages of documents and Ross testified for nearly seven hours in March. The Justice Department said two senior officials were interviewed by committee staff and said officials were working to produce tens of thousands of additional pages of relevant documents.

Cummings disputed that account and said most of the documents turned over to the committee had already been made public.

In identifying Webber on Twitter early Thursday, Shelby County Commissioner and mayoral candidate Tami Sawyer said “Every life lost should matter ... every story has a name. This one will be a sad one. It cannot continue to be.”

Memphis police officers were called to control what was described as a riot. Rallings said the Gulf Coast Regional Fusion Center and the TBI were working to look for a suspect with felony warrants.

Marshals said the man who died at the scene was Brandon Webber and that he was shot several times in his family’s front yard. Family members confirmed to the Daily Memphian that the 21-year-old Webber died.

Actor Glover set to testify before a House panel

The reparations debate became part of the 2020 presidential race early, as several Democratic presidential primary candidates signaled their support for compensating the descendants of slaves, though not in the traditional sense of direct payouts to black Americans.
Helo crash revives 9/11 security concerns in NY

By Bernard Condon

NEW YORK — It was an accident, not terrorism, but this week’s helicopter crash on the roof of a midtown Manhattan skyscraper has raised serious security concerns because of the ease with which the chopper ventured into one of the nation’s most tightly restricted no-fly zones.

Some of the questions being posed are the same ones that bedeviled authorities after 9/11 nearly two decades ago: Are they able to react quickly enough to a rogue aircraft? What can they realistically do? Is scrambling fighter jets and shooting down the intruder really feasible over densely populated city streets?

Experts say the answers are not encouraging.

“If someone had bad intent and they took off from the heliport and made a beeline to Trump Tower, none of the good guys are going to get in the air fast enough to stop him,” said Steven Bucci, a retired Army Special Forces officer who helps design the post-9/11 system to guard U.S. airspace.

Even since President Donald Trump’s election in 2016, a one-mile radius around Trump Tower has been designated National Defense Airspace, one of the highest-level restrictions, requiring express permission from the Federal Aviation Administration for any flights below 3,000 feet and constant radio communication with air-traffic control.

Pilots who don’t adhere to the restriction, according to the FAA, may be “intercepted, detained and interviewed by law enforcement” and “the United States government may use deadly force ... if it is determined that the aircraft poses an imminent security threat.”

Investigators say the pilot who died in the crash Monday afternoon just a few blocks from Trump Tower did not seek such permission and didn’t contact air-traffic control because he wasn’t required to do so, given his intended route, which was supposed to take him around Manhattan to the helicopter’s home base in New Jersey.

After taking off from a heliport on Manhattan’s East Side, the chopper instead strayed over midtown in heavy rain and thick fog and slammed into the roof of the 750-foot AXA Equitable building during a flight that lasted 11 minutes.

An official who was briefed on the situation and spoke on condition of anonymity because the federal investigation is still going on said that commercial pilot Tim McCormack, 58, radioed just before the crash that he was lost and trying to get back to the heliport.

Whether anyone noticed the intrusion into the no-fly zone before the crash is unclear. The FAA and National Transportation Safety Board officials said that question is under investigation. The New York Police Department has a squadron of helicopters that patrol the city’s airspace, but none were in the air at the time of the crash.

The airspace over certain areas — key government buildings and defense installations, for example — has long been off-limits to planes and helicopters. The use of temporary flight restrictions grew rapidly after the Sept. 11 attacks and came to include bans over major sporting events and areas around presidential visits.

Federal and civilian air officials say it is not unusual for pilots to venture into such areas without permission, and normally it is just a mistake. Air traffic controllers try to reach the pilot by radio and tell the person how to safely leave the area and land at an airport, and pilots usually cooperate.

Catholics to create sex-abuse hotline

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — U.S. Catholic bishops voted Wednesday to create a new national sex-abuse hotline run by an independent entity, a decision that represents one of the church’s most tangible steps yet in confronting its sex-abuse crisis.

The hotline, which would field allegations that bishops committed abuse or covered it up, would take complaints by telephone and through an online link. It’s supposed to be operating within a year.

Hotline operators would relay allegations to a review board supervised by bishops. Church leaders are encouraging those bishops — though not requiring them — to seek help from lay experts in assessing and investigating allegations.

“I can’t imagine a bishop not using a lay-led review board that’s filled with people who have expertise in this area of investigation, people with a legal background or a law enforcement background,” said Robert Barron, the auxiliary bishop of the Los Angeles Archdiocese.

Bishops approved the idea on the second day of their national meeting. The new system’s startup costs were estimated at $30,000, with an ongoing annual cost of about $50,000.

The bishops raised questions about how the system would operate, including who would receive the reports, how the reports would be handled, when authorities should be notified and how the church would ensure that victims are taken care of.

Anthony Picarello Jr., general counsel for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, summarized it as “a very sophisticated switchboard.” He said the church is engaging with at least one vendor that already provides a reporting system in Baltimore.

Bishops asked how the system will be publicized and urged the church to make clear to parishioners and others that they can continue to report allegations even before the system is operational.

The bishops’ deliberations have been 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 cover-ups by their superiors to church authorities.

The abuse crisis has prompted many parishioners in the U.S. to reduce their donations and attendance at Mass.

According to the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, an authoritative source of Catholic-related data, there were and estimated 76.3 million Catholics in the U.S. last year, down from 81.2 million in 2005. The church remains the largest denomination in the U.S.

Outside the bishops’ meeting hall, a group of sex-abuse victims held a news conference to share accounts of their long-term struggles, including attempted suicides.

Shawn Dougherty, who says he was abused as a child in Pennsylvania, met beforehand with a group that included some of the bishops. He complained that they viewed themselves as victims.

“The last year of their life has been hell,” Dougherty said. “I’m 49 years old. This began when I was 10. They have 38 more years to go before they even can say that their life is hell to catch up with me.”

Southern Baptist leader apologizes for abuse crisis

Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Sharing a stage with tearful survivors of sex abuse, the president of the Southern Baptist Convention apologized Wednesday for the abuse crisis besetting his denomination and outlined an array of steps to address it.

“We are broken-hearted and angry,” said the Rev. J.D. Greear as he addressed the U.S. Protestant establishment at the end of its two-day national meeting. “Give us the courage to make the changes that genuine repentance requires.”

In an impassioned speech, preceded by prayers of lamentation, Greear blamed the crisis on years of cover-ups. He praised a new anti-abuse curriculum being offered to all SBC churches and seminaries, and he said the SBC must do better in screening potential pastors.

“Father, forgive us,” he prayed after calling out a litany of sins.

Moments earlier, dozens of abuse victims and supporters stood during a prayer for survivors of sexual misconduct. Some wept openly.

On Tuesday, delegates approved the SBC’s first-ever measures aimed directly at combating sex abuse committed by clergy and staff.

The Southern Baptist Convention says it had 14.8 million members in 2018, down about 192,000 from the previous year.
WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump says that if a foreign power offered dirt on his 2020 opponent, he’d be open to accepting it and that he’d have no obligation to call in the FBI.

“I think I’d want to hear it,” Trump said during an interview Wednesday with ABC News, adding, “There’s nothing wrong with listening.”

The role of Trump’s eldest son, Donald Trump Jr., in organizing a 2016 meeting with a Russian lawyer offering negative information on Hillary Clinton was a focus of special counsel Robert Mueller’s probe of Russian meddling in the last presidential campaign.

Mueller painstakingly documented Russian efforts to boost Trump’s campaign and undermine that of his Democratic rival. Mueller’s investigation didn’t establish a criminal conspiracy between Russia and Trump’s campaign, but Trump repeatedly praised WikiLeaks in 2016 and leaked information exposed by Russian hackers.

One of Trump’s challengers, former Vice President Joe Biden, tweeted, “President Trump is once again welcoming foreign interference in our elections. This isn’t about politics. It is a threat to our national security. An American President should not seek their aid and abet those who seek to undermine democracy.”

Several of Trump’s other Democratic opponents in the 2020 race, including Sens. Elizabeth Warren (Mass.), Bernie Sanders (Vt.) and Kirsten Gillibrand (N.Y.) and former Rep. Beto O’Rourke (Texas), repeated their calls to begin impeachment hearings in the wake of the president’s latest remarks.

Trump’s comments came a month after he pledged not to use information stolen by foreign adversaries in his reelection campaign.

During a question-and-answer session with reporters in the Oval Office in May, Trump said he would “certainly agree to” that commitment.

“I don’t need it,” he said as he met with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán. “All I need is the opponents that I’m looking at.”

Trump also insisted unequivocally that he “never did use, as you probably know,” such information, adding: “That’s what the Mueller report was all about. They said no collusion.”

FBI Director Christopher Wray told lawmakers that Donald Trump Jr. should have called his agency to report the offer.

The president, who nominated Wray to the role in 2017, told ABC News that he disagrees. “The FBI director is wrong,” Trump said. He added, “Life doesn’t work like that.”

Asked whether his advisers should accept information on an opponent from Russia, China or another nation or call the FBI this time, Trump said, “I think maybe you do both,” expressing openness to reviewing the information.

“I think you might want to listen,” he said. “There’s nothing wrong with listening. If somebody called from a country — Norway — we have information on your opponent. Oh, I think I’d want to hear it.”

Lock HIM up? Democrats weigh what to do about president’s deeds

By ELANA SCHOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With a familiar chant, President Donald Trump’s backers regularly called for Hillary Clinton to be thrown in prison during the 2016 campaign. Now top Democrats are pressing to ensure Clinton is spared.

An American President should not seek their aid and abet those who seek to undermine democracy.

Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris said in an interview released Wednesday that if she wins the White House, her Justice Department “would have no choice” but to pursue an obstruction of justice case against President Trump. Trump has repeatedly said that Mueller’s probe was a “hoax” or politically motivated.

Harris is a former California attorney general and former Sen. Kamala Harris of California. She has said she would ask Justice Department to reexamine the probe of Russian meddling in the last presidential campaign.

Harris and Buttigieg’s comments come as the country has been gripped by a reckoning about the potential of Democrats politicizing the law enforcement, something they’ve blasted Trump for doing.

Together, democratic presidential candidates are weighing what to do about Trump’s comments about the Justice Department. They disagree on how far they should go.

Hicks also defied subpoenas for documents and testimony at the direction of the White House. McGahn was mentioned frequently in Mueller’s report, in addition to Donaldson, who was his aide.

It is unclear whether Hicks will decline to answer some questions related to her time in the White House. She has so far declined to release any documents related to that period after the White House said she had no legal right to provide them. But she has turned over documents related to her time on the Trump campaign.

An attorney for Hicks declined to comment.

While the interview will be behind closed doors, the committee chairman, Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., said the interview transcript will be released to the public.

Former Trump aide Hicks agrees to Judiciary interview
By ANNA JORDAN
Associated Press

A welcome surge of melting snow is pouring out of the Rocky Mountains and into the drought-stricken rivers of the southwestern U.S., funding off-water shortage but threatening to push rivers over their banks.

Last winter brought above-average snowfall to much of Colorado, Utah and Wyoming, so an abundance of snowmelt is rushing into the Colorado River, the Rio Grande and other waterways after a desperately dry 2018.

"It couldn't have come at a better time," said Greg Smith, a hydrologist with Colorado Basin River Forecast Center, part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. "There's this big sense of relief this year that we've kind of rebounded."

Colorado was blanketed by 134% of its normal snowfall last winter. Utah was even better, at 138%. Southwestern Wyoming received its average amount.

That will put so much water into the Colorado River that Lake Powell, a giant reservoir downstream in Utah and Arizona, is expected to rise to 50 feet this year, said Marlon Duke, a spokesman for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, which manages Powell and dozens of other reservoirs.

The reservoir is rising so fast — 6 to 15 inches a day — that the National Park Service warned people to keep cars and boats at least 200 yards from the shoreline to keep them from being submerged overnight.

The influx into Powell will allow the Bureau of Reclamation to send enough water downstream into Lake Mead in Arizona and Nevada to avoid a possible water shortage there. Arizona, California and Nevada rely heavily on the reservoir.

Last year, the bureau predicted a better than 50% chance that Mead would fall so low that Arizona — which has the lowest priority rights to the reservoir — would have to take a cut in its share in 2020. The shortage now might be put off until after 2021, Duke said.

The Colorado River is expected to send more than 12 million acre-feet into Powell this year, 112% of average and a huge improvement over last year, when scant snow in the Rocky Mountains produced only 4.6 million acre-feet for the reservoir. An acre-foot, or 1,200 cubic meters, is enough to supply a typical U.S. family for a year.

The bureau expects to release 9 million acre-feet from Powell to Mead for the fifth consecutive year.

The news is also good for the Rio Grande, which flows from Colorado through New Mexico and then along the Texas-Mexico border to the Gulf of Mexico.

Elephant Butte, a massive reservoir on the Rio Grande in New Mexico, had dropped as low as 10% of capacity, but it could reach 30% this year, said Carolyn Donnelly, a water operations supervisor for the Bureau of Reclamation.

Besides replenishing reservoirs — a boon to cities and farms that depend on them — the surging rivers mean good rafting conditions, but some sections are so wild that guides are avoiding them.

A popular hike along a riverbed in Utah's Zion National Park has been closed since April 1 because of high water. It could be two weeks before water levels fall enough to make the trail safe, park spokeswoman Aly Baltrus said.

Enough snow is left that the Snowbird ski resort in Utah and Arapahoe Basin and Aspen in Colorado are still open, at least on weekends.

Hiker Tony Larsen poses Monday in the Big Cottonwood canyon, near Salt Lake City. The summer's melting snowpack is creating raging rivers that are running high, fast and icy cold.

Hunter's wife plans to change not-guilty plea

By JUAN MOLINA
Associated Press

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The influx into Powell will allow the Bureau of Reclamation to send enough water downstream into Lake Mead in Arizona and Nevada to avoid a possible water shortage there. Arizona, California and Nevada rely heavily on the reservoir.

Last year, the bureau predicted a better than 50% chance that Mead would fall so low that Arizona — which has the lowest priority rights to the reservoir — would have to take a cut in its share in 2020. The shortage now might be put off until after 2021, Duke said.

The Colorado River is expected to send more than 12 million acre-feet into Powell this year, 112% of average and a huge improvement over last year, when scant snow in the Rocky Mountains produced only 4.6 million acre-feet for the reservoir. An acre-foot, or 1,200 cubic meters, is enough to supply a typical U.S. family for a year.

The bureau expects to release 9 million acre-feet from Powell to Mead for the fifth consecutive year.

The news is also good for the Rio Grande, which flows from Colorado through New Mexico and then along the Texas-Mexico border to the Gulf of Mexico.

Elephant Butte, a massive reservoir on the Rio Grande in New Mexico, had dropped as low as 10% of capacity, but it could reach 30% this year, said Carolyn Donnelly, a water operations supervisor for the Bureau of Reclamation.

Besides replenishing reservoirs — a boon to cities and farms that depend on them — the surging rivers mean good rafting conditions, but some sections are so wild that guides are avoiding them.

A popular hike along a riverbed in Utah's Zion National Park has been closed since April 1 because of high water. It could be two weeks before water levels fall enough to make the trail safe, park spokeswoman Aly Baltrus said.

Enough snow is left that the Snowbird ski resort in Utah and Arapahoe Basin and Aspen in Colorado are still open, at least on weekends.

Hiker Tony Larsen poses Monday in the Big Cottonwood canyon, near Salt Lake City. The summer's melting snowpack is creating raging rivers that are running high, fast and icy cold.
**STARS AND STRIPES**

**NATION**

More monkeys are being retired by research labs

**By Carrie Antlfinger**

Associated Press

WESTFIELD, Wis. — Izelle, Timon, Batman, River and Mars spent years confined inside a lab, their lives devoted to being tested for the benefit of human health. But these rhesus macaques have paid their dues and are now living in retirement — in larger enclosures that let them venture outside, eat lettuce and carrots, dip their fingers in colorful plastic pools, paint, and hang from pipes and tires — in relative quiet.

Three monkeys that are retiring to sanctuaries like Primates Inc., a 17-acre rural compound in central Wisconsin, where they can live their remaining years, according to the sanctuaries and researchers for some sanctuaries it's their first time hanging out in the fresh air.

"Just to see them look around in amazement. You know it was across very calm and peaceful," said Amy Kerwin, who worked for 15 years to get the Westfield, Wis., sanctuary opened after being employed in a University of Wisconsin research lab.

There were approximately 110,000 primates in research facilities in 2017, according to the most recent data available from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

While most research facilities need primates to be euthanized to examine their tissues, technological advances, such as brain scans, mean fewer monkeys need to be put down. Plus, researchers who become close to the animals are making more efforts to give the ones who can survive a retirement, rather than euthanization.

In 2015, a group of researchers, graduate students and an ethicist created the Research Animal Retirement Foundation. It raises funds for labs to pay the sanctuaries to let monkeys retire from them. So far they have given $33,000 in funding for three monkeys who went to the Wisconsin sanctuary.

A visit to the Peacable Primate Sanctuary in Indiana helped convince Rep. Jackie Walorski, R-Ind., to author a bill introduced last month, along with Rep. Brandon Boyle, D-Penn., that requires federal agencies to develop a policy allowing animals no longer needed for research to be adopted out or put in sanctuaries. Currently, no federal regulations dictate what happens to them. Some are sold to other studies when one lab is done.

The bill doesn’t address funding, one of the main hurdles to get primates into retirement sanctuaries.

Currently, grants through the National Institutes of Health, which is the largest public funder of biomedical research in the world, don’t include money for retirement. That’s leaving the labs and sanctuaries to find the tens of thousands of dollars per monkey, per year needed to care for them.

Monkeys are finished with studies at different ages and some can live for decades. Some can also leave with lingering issues, like compulsive behaviors caused by boredom.

"That’s why many sanctuaries require the labs to send some funding, often between $10,000 and $20,000, to help care and create space for monkeys. Since many of the primates have only lived in labs, they don’t have the skills needed to live in the wild. Most primates in accredited sanctuaries are chimpanzees, capuchins, and squirrel monkeys, according to Erika Fleury, program director for the North American Primate Sanctuary Alliance, or NAPSA, an advocacy group for captive primates. They come from research, the entertainment industry or private homes. Cindy Buckmaster, chair of the Americans for Medical Progress, which represents research universities and medical research companies, said that besides funding, researchers are concerned about sanctuaries standards, their financial viability and whether some sanctuaries tie to animal rights groups will cause them to badmouth the institution.

“We really feel very grateful to them and we want them to have wonderful lives after,” said Buckmaster. “They certainly deserve it. But it has to be done well and it has to be done properly because we’re not going to put our animals in harm’s way.”

By Gene Johnson

Associated Press

SEATTLE — A man charged with murder in the 1987 killings of a young Canadian couple is facing trial in Washington state beginning this week, but the case won’t challenge the new investigative techniques that are making more efforts to give the people who built the graves — or with the people, they were buried," said study co-author Mark Merlin, a professor at the University of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing.

Excavation of the site, called Jindalee, has been ongoing since 2013. The tomb complex also contained other objects the researchers believe were used in funeral rituals, including fragments of silk cloth and harps.

Dorian Fuller, an archaeologist and botanist at the University College London who was not involved in the study, called the findings "very exciting."

"Some of the artifacts are from Central Asia and some from Central China," he said. "It reminds us that this region was very much at the crossroads of Asia at the time."

Genealogist found man responsible for 2 deaths

By CARRIE ANTLFINGER

associatedpress.com

By Gene Johnson

Associated Press

Washington state Rep. Jackie Walorski, R-Ind., has paid her dues and is now living in retirement — in larger enclosures that let them venture outside, eat lettuce and carrots, dip their fingers in colorful plastic pools, paint, and hang from pipes and tires — in relative quiet.

William Earl Talbott II is one of dozens of men authorities have arrested for old, unsolved crimes in the past year using genetic genealogy. The practice involves identifying suspects by generating crime-scene DNA profiles into public databases that people have used for years to fill out their family trees.

Privacy advocates have expressed concerns about whether it violates the rights of suspects and whether its use by law enforcement should be restricted.

But Talbott’s attorneys say how detectives found him is irrelevant to their defense to charges that he killed 18-year-old Tanya Van Cuylenborg and her boyfriend, 24-year-old Jay Cook.

Instead, they argue that he’s innocent and that the discovery of his DNA — which investigators said was on her pants, vagina and rectum — doesn’t make him a murderer.

“The police used this as nothing more than any other tip, which they followed up with traditional investigative techniques,” defense attorney Rachel Boyle said. “DNA on the hem of one of the victim’s pants doesn’t tell you who killed her and why.”

Van Cuylenborg and Cook disappeared in November 1987 during what was supposed to be an overnight trip from their hometown of Saanich, British Columbia, to Seattle, to pick up furnace parts for Cook’s father’s business.

After a frantic week for their families, Van Cuylenborg’s body was found down an embankment in rural Skagit County, north of Seattle. She had been shot in the back of the head.

Hunters found Cook dead two days later next to a bridge over the Snoqualmie River in Monroe — about 60 miles from where his girlfriend was discovered. He had been strangled with twine. With a sample from Van Cuylenborg’s pants, which were discovered in the couple’s van in Bellingham, Washington, after their deaths, Moore built a family tree and determined that the source must be a male child of William and Patricia Talbott. They had only one son. He was 24 at the time of the killings and lived near where Cook’s body was found.

Detectives taunted Talbott, a truck driver, and saw him discard a coffee cup. They tested the DNA left behind, confirming it matched that found on the pants. They say he also matched a palm print from the rear door of the couple’s van.

By CHRISTINA LARSON

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Archaeologists have unearthed the earliest direct evidence of people smoking marijuana from a 2,500-year-old graveyard in western China.

In a complex of looted graves in the Pamir Mountains — a region near the borders of modern China, Pakistan and Tajikistan — excavators found 10 wooden bowls and several stones containing burned residue of the cannabis plant. Scientists believe the heated stones were used to burn the marijuana and people then inhaled the smoke as part of a burial ritual.

"It’s the earliest strong evidence of people getting high“ on marijuana, said Mark Merlin, a botanist at the University of Hawaii. He was not involved in the research published Wednesday in the journal Science Advances.

The discovery of a cannabis use has long intrigued scholars. The Greek historian Herodotus wrote of people in Central Asia smoking cannabis around 440 B.C. In the past century, archaeologists have found cannabis seeds and plants buried in tombs across Central Asia’s highlands, including in southern Siberia, and elsewhere in western China’s Xinjiang region.

Today, scholars don’t consider ancient accounts trustworthy without corroborating evidence. And since the cannabis plant has other uses — seeds are pressed for oil, fibers used for cloth — the presence of seeds alone doesn’t confirm drug use.

Using new techniques for chemical analysis to study drugs, scientists examined the residue and found evidence of THC, the compound that gives pot its high. Most wild cannabis plants have low levels of THC, so the researchers believe the people who built the graves deliberately selected or cultivated plants with higher amounts.

“During funeral rites, the smokers may have hoped to connect with the spirit world — or with the people, they were burying,” said study co-author Yimin Yang of the University of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing.
Philippines protests sinking of fishing vessel in disputed South China Sea

By Jim Gomez
Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines' top diplomat said Thursday he has filed a diplomatic protest after an anchored fishing boat was hit by a suspected Chinese vessel which then abandoned the 22 Filipino fishermen as the boat sank in the disputed South China Sea.

Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. said he filed the protest Wednesday. He disclosed the move in a tweet in response to a suggestion by opposition Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV that an independent investigation be conducted by the International Maritime Organization, a U.N. agency.

Another opposition senator, Risa Hontiveros, called on President Rodrigo Duterte to recall the Philippine ambassador and consuls in China to pressure Beijing to identify and punish the Chinese crewmen allegedly involved in the sinking.

China condemned the incident but did not immediately confirm or deny that a Chinese vessel was involved.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana disclosed on Wednesday that a boat identified as F/B Gintver I, was carrying 22 Filipino fishermen and sank Sunday night after being hit by the suspected Chinese vessel at Reed Bank off the western Philippine province of Palawan.

He thanked Vietnamese fishermen who rescued the Filipinos and brought them to safety.

Citing information provided by the Filipinos, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang described the sinking as "an ordinary maritime traffic accident" and criticized assumptions made about it. "It is irresponsible to resort to the media to hype and politicize the incident without verification," he said, adding a Chinese investigation was underway in coordination with Philippine authorities.

Philippine officials say Reed Bank lies well within their country's exclusive economic zone.

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Beating back the blockbuster

Director Scorsese discusses his latest film, ‘Rolling Thunder Revue: A Bob Dylan Story’

By Jake Coyle
Associated Press

A recent multiplex marquee is haunting Martin Scorsese. Twelve screens and 11 of them were showing one movie: “Avengers: Endgame.”

“Now, that’s not fair,” Scorsese says. “We have to fight back at this practice of overbilling the market with the blockbuster. The — how should I put it? — the regular film, that’s being edged out. It’s got to go somewhere. It has to go someplace because you know why? There are people that are going to continue to make them.”

Scorsese, 76, is still making them, though there’s little “regular” about his latest film. “Rolling Thunder Revue: A Bob Dylan Story By Martin Scorsese” is a blistering semi-fictional documentary that chronicles Dylan’s mythic 1975-1976 rambling cavalcade across a post-Vietnam America.

Scorsese has also inserted fictional characters to amplify the folklore and embrace Dylan’s own trickery.

The film, which premiered Wednesday on Netflix and is in select theaters, includes restored performance footage that扦 aus Dylan’s tour, scenes of the backstage circus and contemporary interviews with many of the participants, including Joan Baez and, in his first on-camera interview in a decade, Dylan.

For Scorsese, the movie is largely about what remains from that freewheeling extravaganza, when Dylan drew a Woodstock-sized cloud of musicians and artists and poets (among them Allen Ginsberg, Ramblin’ Jack Elliott, Joni Mitchell, Bob Neuwirth) on a nationwide storm.

What’s left of that musical moment? “Ashes,” Dylan resolutely states in the film. Ginsberg, in a post-performance interview captured on camera by Dylan, provides a counterpart that Scorsese favors. The poet implores all to “take us from some example” and “go out and make it for your own eternity.”

Scorsese was so moved by Ginsberg’s words that he used them at a commencement address at his daughter’s high-school graduation.

“What we were going for was to say: What survives from these iconic times? Scorsese said. “That spirit has to be remembered and it has to be re-experienced, especially in the climate of today around the world. It’s not enough to say the world changes and it doesn’t mean anything. It has a timelessness.”

At the time of the Rolling Thunder Revue, Scorsese was making “Taxi Driver,” which, like Dylan’s caravan, channeled post-’60s disillusionment. Dylan says in the film it was when people lost everything. Rolling Thunder was in part about, in that vacuum, creating an artistic community outside of corporate interests and subverting audience expectations.

Scorsese believes that spirit holds lessons for audiences today.

“There’s a generation that thinks cinema is a blockbuster. I say, ‘I do prefer that people see ‘Rolling Thunder Revue’ with an audience. I think the theater experience is important. By the way, I don’t think it will ever go away. What I’m concerned about is the theater experience is only blockbusters.’”

It’s not enough to say the world changes and it doesn’t mean anything. It has a timelessness.

Martin Scorsese
movie director

By Anousha Sarouj
Bloomberg

More than a month into the summer movie season, one thing has become clear: Many of Hollywood’s sequels, reboots and remakes are failing flat.

Some films have missed analysts’ forecasts by tens of millions of dollars. They include last weekend’s new releases — Walt Disney’s “Aladdin” and Universal Pictures’ “The Secret Life of Pets 2.”

’Rolling Thunder’ is latest to miss expectations

The sequel to Michael Wolff’s million-selling “Fire and Fury” is not attracting the same kind of interest. NPD BookScan reports 17,756 first-week sales for “Siege,” Wolff’s latest account of the White House under President Donald Trump. “Fire and Fury” sold more than 25,000 copies its first week amid a shortage of supply due to enormous, and unex- pected, demand. “Fire and Fury” sold nearly 200,000 copies the following week. Trump has largely ignored “Siege,” which had few of the headline-making details of “Fire and Fury” and Livia Miles, whose brief appearances in the films “Midnight Cowboy” and “Farewell, My Lovely” earned her two Academy Award nominations, died Wednesday. The cause is not yet clear. Accounts of her age vary widely, from 86 to 94.

Steve Lawrence says he has Alzheimer’s disease

Singer Steve Lawrence revealed Tuesday that he has been diagnosed with the early stages of Alzheimer’s disease.

In a letter sent by his spokes- man Howard Bragman, Law- rence confirmed the diagnosis, saying that he felt he needed to speak out in light of recent rumors and media inquiries.

“I’m living my life, going out in public and being as much as possible with my family and friends while I am still able to engage and enjoy,” he wrote.

Lawrence said he doesn’t want pity or sympathy in response to his condition.

“I have lived and am living a wonderful, joyous life filled with love, support and amazing moments,” he said.

The 83-year-old crooner is known for hits including the ballad “Go Away Little Girl” and as one half of the 1960s pop duo Steve and Eydie alongside his wife, Eydie Gorme, who died in 2013.

Lawrence and Gorme helped keep alive the legacy of the Amer- ican Broadway songbook at a time when rock became dominant.

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Other news

Hollywood’s sequels factory churns out worrisome duds this summer

By Anousha Sarouj
Bloomberg

More than a month into the summer movie season, one thing has become clear: Many of Hollywood’s sequels, reboots and remakes are failing flat.

Some films have missed analysts’ forecasts by tens of millions of dollars. They include last weekend’s new releases — Walt Disney Co.’s “Dark Phoenix” and Universal Pictures’ “The Secret Life of Pets 2.”

Though Paramount Pictures’ “Rocketman” topped studio forecasts, the Elton John biopic came in below outside estimates, Warner Bros.’ “Godzilla” sequel also missed industry expectations.

So far, the shortfall hasn’t claimed any of the summer’s biggest tentpole films. And Eric Wold, an analyst at B. Riley FBR, still expects higher ticket sales through the bal- lance of the year to deliver a record 2019. But the results also show that fans are getting pickier about the glut of sequels that Hollywood studios have force-fed moviegoers for years.

“People are savvy enough to wait for the home market, especially with so many great streaming choices this summer,” said Jeff Bock, an analyst with Exhibitor Relations Co. “That’s something Hollywood will be contending against for years to come.”

Reboots and sequels need to be more compelling to draw in fans, Bock said. “Many of them aren’t upping the ante or raising the stakes significantly enough,” he said.

Hollywood studios have turned movie serials, now dubbed franchises, into an art form — with film series built around comic-book figures, action-hero revivals and classic cartoon characters. And no one seems more successful at this task than Disney.

But even Disney’s biggest hits aren’t doing quite as well as predicted. The Marvel finale “Avengers: Endgame” racked up $2.73 billion in box-office sales globally and looked likely to dethrone “Avatar” as the top-grossing movie of all time. Now — following a drop-off in attendance — it will have to settle for second place.

Bock cites a number of reasons for all of the misses. No one cared about the humans in “Godzilla,” he said, and “The Secret Life of Pets 2” didn’t “bring anything new to the table.”

Missing estimates in a debut weekend doesn’t necessarily mean a feature won’t be profitable. Movies like “Rocketman,” with smaller production budgets, are expected to make money.

“Dark Phoenix,” an X-Men film, is emerging as one of the summer’s bigger duds. It suffered from production and story problems, along with muddled marketing that left audiences confused by the trailer, Bock said. The film cost about $200 million to make, plus tens of millions more to market, suggesting it will have trouble turning a profit.

So far, sequels are up about 14%, according to Wold. That’s helped theater owners recover from a sharp decline earlier in the year. For 2019 to date, domestic sales through last weekend were down 6% from a year earlier, according to Comscore Inc.

“Sequels can obviously be successful — there wouldn’t be 20 of them this summer if Hollywood thought otherwise,” Bock said. “‘Avengers: Endgame’ was a once-in-a-decade, domest- ic market winner. The ones we opened below expectations were ill-con- ceived and/or flimsy films. In other words: lazy sequels.”

Wold said a successful summer season hinges on a few big releases still to come: “The Lion King” and “Toy Story 4” from Disney, a Fast & Furious spinoff from Comcast Corp.’s Universal studio, and a new Spider-Man release from Sony Corp.
Uganda sees 2nd death from Ebola virus

BY RODNEY MUHUMUZA
Associated Press

KAMPALA, Uganda — A second person infected with the Ebola virus has died in Uganda, the health ministry said Thursday, after a family exposed to the disease quietly crossed the border from Congo.

The first cross-border cases in this Ebola outbreak — the second-deadliest in history — have prompted a World Health Organization expert committee to meet on Friday to discuss whether to declare a global health emergency. Such declarations almost always boost attention and donor funding.

Uganda health ministry spokesman Emmanuel Ainebyoona confirmed the death of the 50-year-old woman overnight. Her 5-year-old grandson was the first confirmed death from Ebola in Uganda on Wednesday. The boy's 3-year-old brother also is infected.

Uganda's health ministry said all members of the Congolese-Ugandan family, including a six-month-old baby, have been sent to Congo for monitoring and experimental treatments as part of clinical trials. There is no licensed treatment for the virus which can spread quickly via close contact with bodily fluids of those infected and can be fatal in up to 90% of cases.

More than 1,400 people have died in this outbreak declared in August in eastern Congo, one of the world's most turbulent regions, where rebel attacks and resistance by community members wary of authorities have badly hampered Ebola containment work.

For months, officials have feared the virus would cross the heavily traveled border where health workers have been screening millions of people for fever and other symptoms. Uganda, Rwanda and South Sudan have been preparing for possible cases.

The family's case shows the challenges in tracking those infected in an outbreak where an alarmingly high percentage of cases aren't discovered until it is too late. Doctors Without Borders last month said as few as a third of new confirmed Ebola cases were linked back to known contacts of infected people.

Authorities on Wednesday said the family had traveled from Uganda to Congo because the boys' grandfather was ill. WHO said he died of Ebola, and officials believe those who mourned him became infected, too.

While returning to Uganda, the group including several other children was stopped at a Congolese border post. A dozen members of the group already showed symptoms of Ebola. While awaiting transfer to an Ebola treatment unit, six family members slipped away and crossed into Uganda on an unguarded footpath, authorities told The Associated Press.

Authorities in both countries now vow to step up border security. Five family members who did not cross into Uganda have tested positive for Ebola, Congo's health ministry said.

Euro gains in global use, but dollar still dominates

Associated Press

FRANKFURT, Germany — The euro has gained ground on the dollar as a global currency used for government reserves, rebounding from historic lows as U.S. sanctions deter some countries’ use of the U.S. currency.

The dollar, however, is still very much the dominant international currency for trade, borrowing and reserves.

That is despite a slow diversification toward other currencies over recent years, most recently toward the Chinese yuan. The ECB said Thursday that the euro's share of measurable foreign reserves held by central banks and governments around the world rose 1.2 percentage points during 2018 to 20.7%, reversing a declining trend. The dollar's share was down slightly to 61.7%. That is down more than 7 percentage points from its peak level before the global financial crisis of 2007-2009.

Factors affecting the dollar's use include countries selling dollars to support their own currency, and U.S. financial sanctions such as those against Russia, which has moved some holdings to other currencies to avoid U.S. restrictions.

Russia sold about $100 billion worth of U.S. dollar-denominated assets in the wake of new rounds of U.S. sanctions, making the euro Moscow's main currency holding with 9% of reserves. The U.S. has imposed sanctions over a raft of issues, including the annexation of Ukraine's Crimea Peninsula, human rights abuses, support for the Syrian government, illicit trade with North Korea, election interference and cyberattacks.

China also slightly reduced its dollar holdings in the form of U.S. Treasurys, by about $60 billion, during a period of trade tension with the U.S., leaving its holdings at a still massive $1.1 trillion. The Chinese currency, a newcomer in terms of being a global reserve currency, doubled its share to just under 2%.

Other currencies used as reserves are the Japanese yen and the British pound, and to a lesser extent the Canadian dollar and the Australian dollar.

Another reason dollar reserves declined is believed to be sales of dollar assets by emerging-market countries that are trying to keep their national currencies from falling against the dollar.

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Man wearing ‘COKE’ shirt arrested for drugs

FORT PIERCE — Authorities said a Florida man they arrested for selling crack cocaine was wearing a shirt that said “COKE” on the front of it.

A St. Lucie County Sheriff’s Office report said Terry Leon Simmons, 53, was charged with two counts of selling cocaine.

Authorities said an undercover officer bought $40 worth of crack from Simmons outside a Fort Pierce convenience store.

Two days later, detectives said they went to Simmons home to arrest him and reported finding marijuana and MDMA in the home.

Town bars workers from wearing flip-flops

GREENWICH — A Connecticut town barred municipal employees from wearing slide sandals or flip-flops to work.

Mary Pepe, director of human resources in Greenwich, told the Greenwich Time the policy that took effect June 1 was not made in response to a specific incident, but to create safer conditions and avoid accidents that can result in injuries, absences and workers’ compensation claims.

Megan Damato, the town’s director of risk management, said flip-flops or slide sandals can be a tripping hazard.

There are exceptions. The policy does not apply to lifeguards, staff at town-run camps or swim instructors.

‘Straight, country boy’ turns pickup rainbow

HULBERT — Self-described “straight, country boy” Cody Barlow believes duct tape really can fix anything, including bigots.

The 28-year-old college student from Hulbert recently decorated the tailgate of his pickup like a pride flag with the message: “NOT ALL COUNTRY BOYS ARE BIGOTS.”

Below a Facebook post about his truck had been shared more than 135,000 times by Tuesday.

Now, the “jacked-up” 1991 Chevrolet Silverado he uses to drive his truck had wobbly letters and numbers.

“In fact, everything, even bigots,” he said.

Barlow plans to drive his truck in parades later this month in Oklahoma City and Fayetteville, Ark.

Poorly-made license plate leads to arrest

MOORPARK — A big rig trying to be arrested after authorities spotted a phony license plate on his rig.

How could they tell?

Well, the Ventura County Sheriff’s Department said the 1960s-style yellow-on-black plate had wobbly letters and numbers. Also, instead of “CALIFORNIA,” it read “CALIFAS.”

Time’s up

Contractors from Darr Construction of Berlin, Pa., work together to remove the hour hands on one of the four clocks to be repaired on top of the Somerset Courthouse on Tuesday in Somerset, Pa.

The department Monday said a Moorpark motorcycle officer spotted the plate and pulled the driver over.

The driver was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of drugs, possessing methamphetamine, being an uninsured driver and having an active arrest warrant.

Deputies: Alligator bit off piece of patrol car

MOORINGSPORT — Sheriff’s deputies in Louisiana said an alligator took a bite out of one of their patrol cars.

WBRZ-TV reported deputies were called Monday to Louisiana Highway 1 in Caddo Parish after someone spotted the gator in the middle of the road.

The sheriff’s office said deputies were waiting for wildlife removal experts to arrive when the alligator chomped off a piece of the front bumper. Deputies estimated the alligator was 8 feet long.

A photo from the Caddo Parish Sheriff’s Office Facebook page shows the reptile in grass next to what appears to be the black rectangular grill of the car.

Authorities say the gator escaped before the wildlife removal experts arrived.

Playground’s metal sculpture burns kids

BOSTON — Boston authorities covered a new turtle sculpture at a playground after several parents complained that the bronze model was getting superheated by the sun and burning children.

One complaint included a picture of someone holding a thermometer atop the turtle’s shell that read 133 degrees.

The four-foot sculpture of a Kemp’s ridley sea turtle at the Myrtle Street Playground in the city’s Beacon Hill neighborhood is now covered by a tarp held down by rope.

Ryan Woods, a spokesman for the Parks and Recreation Department, told The Boston Globe the city is trying to determine its next move, which could mean removing the sculpture, or putting a canopy over it.

Possible shark bite would be 2nd in 2 weeks

OCEAN ISLE — A teenager said he was bitten by a shark while surfing off the southern coast of North Carolina.

WSOC reported Austin Reed, 19, is expected to be fine after receiving what officials have described as a “marine bite” in Ocean Isle.

Reed’s father said his son had surgery to close an approximately 10-inch wound on his foot.

The News & Observer reported that if confirmed as a shark bite, this would be the second shark attack in North Carolina this month. Paige Winter, 17, recently lost most of her leg from a shark bite received at Fort Macon State Park.

Report: Child left home while pair robed bank

BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS

Court documents said a couple left their child home alone while they robbed a bank in suburban St. Louis.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported that Melissa Harrison, 40, and Ramon Alonso Gregory Falls, 33, were charged with stealing or attempted stealing from a U.S. Bank in Bellefontaine Neighbors and child abuse.

That said Harrison handed a teller a note demanding money and that Falls drove the getaway vehicle. But the teller inserted a tracking device into the money-filled envelope, and the couple was arrested after a chase.

Investigators later found the couple’s child was home alone for more than six hours with no running water or food.

Crates of live chickens fall on highway

LENHARTSVILLE

More than 100 chickens survived after falling off a truck on a Pennsylvania highway.

State Police said more than a dozen crates holding the birds came off the truck on Interstate 78 in Berks County on Monday.

Passing motorists managed to move the sculpture, or putting a canopy over it.

Repaired Al Capone statue returned to bar

HOT SPRINGS — A dapper-dressed statue of gangster Al Capone was repaired, repainted and returned to an Arkansas bar after a failed attempt to steal the welcoming figure.

The Sentinel-Record reported the redone statue was returned to a seat near a bench outside The Ohio Club in Hot Springs. Its website describes the business as the oldest bar in Arkansas, established in 1905 and Capone was a known visitor.

Capone’s friends said two men in March tried to snatch the statue but dropped and broke it. Both were charged with public intoxication and criminal mischief.

Club owner Mike Pettee said it cost $3,500 for repairs.

From wire reports

The number of motorcyclists arrested in New Hampshire on reckless driving charges after they were clocked riding 125 mph in a 65-mph zone. Police said the arrests happened in Raymond, N.H., after troopers were alerted to a group of motorcyclists traveling at high speeds. Two of the motorcycles had passengers. All seven men are scheduled to appear in court Oct. 16.
Welcome to the Neighborhood.

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Stay connected and hey, welcome to the neighborhood.
Tyson enters the plant-based meat market

By Dee-Ann Durbin
Associated Press

The fast-growing market for meat alternatives has a surprising new player: Tyson Foods. Tyson, one of the world’s largest meat producers, will begin selling nuggets made from pea protein at grocery stores this summer. A blended burger made from beef and pea protein will follow this fall. Both will be sold under a new brand, Raised and Rooted, which will continue to develop plant-based and blended products for both groceries and restaurants.

Tyson is responding to a growing global trend toward plant-based eating, fueled by health and environmental concerns. U.S. sales of meat substitutes are expected to jump 7% to $2.5 billion between 2018 and 2023, according to Euromonitor. Global sales could reach $23 billion in that same timeframe.

Startups like Beyond Meat, which makes burgers and sausages from pea protein, and Impossible Foods, which has a soy-based one, are part of an explosion in other startups, including Memphis Meats and Future Meat Technologies — which grow meat from cells — and mushroom-based protein startup MycoTechnology.

But the entry of Springfield, Ark.-based Tyson could upend the alternative protein market because of its sheer size and distribution capacity. Tyson Foods reported $40 billion in sales in its 2018 fiscal year; Beyond Meat, which held its IPO last month, forecasts $210 million in sales this year. Tyson has 50 facilities just for processing chicken; Impossible Foods has one factory in Silicon Valley.

Tyson has been watching the alternative protein market for a while. Its investment arm, Tyson Ventures, acquired a 5% stake in Beyond Meat in 2016. It sold that stake before Beyond Meat’s IPO, but it continues to hold investments in other startups, including Memphis Meats and Future Meat Technologies — which grow meat from cells — and mushroom-based protein startup MycoTechnology.

“These things work together and help us have a broad view of what the world of food looks like,” said Justin Whitmore, who leads Tyson’s alternative protein business.

Whitmore said the company noticed a significant upswing in the number of consumers who eat meat but want alternative sources of protein. About a year ago, Tyson’s chefs and consumer specialists began developing its own alternative protein products. The nuggets it came up with look like fried chicken, but they’re made with pea protein, egg whites, flaxseed and bamboo fiber and other ingredients.

“It became apparent we had the capability not only to compete but to lead in this space,” Whitmore said.

Whitmore said Tyson will develop more Raised and Rooted products and also spread plant-based alternatives through its other brands. For example, Tyson’s Aidells brand is getting sausage and meatballs that contain 50-60% chicken and 40-50% plants like chickpeas, quinoa and lentils.

The products will be sold at grocery stores and restaurants, but Tyson isn’t yet saying which ones.

Nestle is among the companies that could challenge Tyson. Last week, the Swiss food giant said it plans to launch its Sweet Earth brand Awesome Burger in the U.S. this fall.

But Whitmore didn’t express concern about competitors, saying Tyson’s speed, scale and distribution expertise — as well as its 84-year history — puts it ahead of companies who have been in the plant-based market for longer.

Whitmore said groceries will be able to decide where to put Tyson’s plant-based products. Beyond Meat has seen success partly because its burgers are sold in the meat aisle and not in the freezer section with traditional bean- or corn-based veggie patties.

Tyson is also being careful to describe its products as “alternative proteins” and not “meat,” a label used by some plant-based companies that has riled the meat industry. Some states, including Arkansas and Missouri, ban plant-based foods from being called “meat.”

Whitmore said Tyson continues to invest hundreds of millions of dollars in its traditional meat business, and it’s confident consumers eating its plant-based products will keep eating its meats. He wouldn’t say what portion of its overall Tyson expects to come from plant-based products in 2020.

**MARKET WATCH**

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**INTEREST RATES**

| **Prime rate** | 5.59 |
| **Discount rate** | 3.00 |
| **Federal funds market rate** | 2.15 |
| **30-year bond** | 2.82 |

**EXCHANGE RATES**

| **Euro (June 14)** | $1.1579 |
| **British pound (June 14)** | $1.30 |
| **Japanese yen (June 14)** | 105.60 |
| **South Korean won (June 14)** | 1,155.00 |

**WEATHER OUTLOOK**

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

**ACROSS**
1. Stetson, e.g. 53. New Mexico resort
2. Big gulp 25. "...sting like..."
3. 8 miles away 26. Plate
4. Boxing legend 27. "...sting like..."
5. Birthplace 28. Galvanizing
6. Galleo's 29. Media mogul
12. Comic strip 30. Turner
13. Tubular pasta 31. "Funny!"
14. Comedy club 32. Terrestrial
15. "Streetcar" 33. Hooded
17. Attack 34. Divide
18. Poem of praise 35. Brandish
19. Old Ford model 36. Rum cocktail
20. "Frenzied" 37. Hydrid fuel
21. "Sleep" 38. Unspoken
23. "AAA" 40. 10 loss
24. Archipelago unit (Abbr.) 41. Legal document
25. "11 Brink" 42. "Avalon prefix"
26. "Frenzied" 43. "Aviation prefix"
27. "11 Brink" 44. "Answer an invite"
28. "AAA" 45. Make lace
30. "11 Brink" 47. Thurman
31. Sacred bird of Egypt 48. Austin's sister
32. Sushi fish 49. "Got it"
33. Nile queen, familiarly 50. 20 Morning misture
34. Capitol Hill VIP 51. "Lean to one side"
35. Passing craze 52. "Got it"
36. Sacred song 53. "Get it"
37. "Frenzied" 54. Bigfoot's cousin
38. "Sleep" 55. Surpass
40. "AAA" 57. Surpass

**DOWN**
1. "Funny!"
2. Hearty quaffs
3. Twitches
4. Divides
5. Brandish
6. Medic. nationalism
7. Hybrid fuel
8. Ancient Mexican
9. Tall tree
10. "Stupendous"
11. "11 Brink"
12. Curly-leaf cabbages
13. 20 Morning misture
14. "AAA"
15. 20 Morning misture
16. "Get it"
17. "Get it"
18. "Get it"
19. "Get it"
20. "Get it"
21. "Get it"
22. "Get it"
23. "Get it"
24. "Get it"

**Answer to Previous Puzzle**

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6-14 **CRYPTOQUIP**

IKTDC GFOG HV YPD’Y RTLK
IPZZPRKB O XOZCK OHPQDG
PL HPDKV LZPH HK, TY YFK
HV BKIGPZ-TD-XOR?

Yesterday’s Cryptoquip: FUTURE SUPERHERO WHO MIGHT WEAR A LONG-SLEEVED, BELTED ROBE INSTEAD OF A CAPE: CAPTAIN MARVEL.

Today’s Cryptoquip Clue: H equals M
Clear symbolism in death of Macron’s gifted tree

By James McAuley
The Washington Post

The symbolic tree that President Donald Trump and his French counterpart planted at the White House last year has died, according to French media reports.

The small oak, which came from the historic Belleau Wood to the east of Paris, where American forces halted a German counteroffensive in the waning months of World War I, was a gift from Macron to Trump during his April 2018 state visit. As the two leaders drove back together in Trump’s Workers for Trump parade car, the tree “will be a reminder at the White House of these ties that bind us.” Instead, the dead tree can now be seen as a reminder of the fractured relationship between the two allies as “le bromance” and has since become rather antagonistic.

A major turning point in the Macron-Trump relationship came during the same visit when the two presidents gathered with their wives on the White House lawn to plant the tree. Macron flew across the Atlantic to try to convince Trump not to abandon the Iran deal, a signature policy achievement of the Obama administration.

The French president, who had won in a landslide the year before and who is the youngest head of state in modern French history, clearly believed in his own ability to influence the United States president. And Macron had flown from Paris to Washington, D.C., to charm.

Compared with other European leaders, notably German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Macron seemed to get along quite well with Trump. He has often seemed to delight in having him at the Élysée Palace, and the French president is said to have been pleased to replace the dead oak with an evergreen to ensure Trump’s re-election. But absence a premature death, the vast majority of us will reach a point at which doing those things is unwise, unpleasant or impossible.

When that time comes is hugely variable. At no time in life are people as varied in their abilities and inclinations as they are in their old age. Some people experience accelerated aging as a result of chronic disease, metabolic changes, or the accumulation of other medical and social circumstances. Others thrive into advanced old age. One society has long had age markers for behaviors that have a personal and social impact. These include going to school, driving a car, drinking alcohol and collecting Social Security. Just as they may differ (ideally equivalent and just) standards to children and adults, as well as to their seniors, so too we should develop unique and fair standards for elderhood and its subgroups. Discrimination flourishes when we don’t discuss important social issues openly, honestly and with more attention to facts than bias.

There is probably a point at which a person is too old to run for president, but at what age that happens will vary by individual. For me, 100 is too old, and 90 probably is, too. The 80s are the ironically titled gray area. Americans over 65 can live 17 to 20 years on average — meaning half of them will live longer than that — and men can expect an average of 15 additional years. Importantly, the benefits of continued work to develop the next generation of leaders, but absent a premature death, the vast majority of older people in elderhood or headed that way — be they parents, grandparents or great-grandparents — there are older people in the media, on the street, in our workplaces. There is an interesting trend away from the gray or white hair, me included. Having gray or white hair is bad only if being old is bad, and if being old is bad, we are all in trouble.

For our older presidential candidates, the bottom line is multifaceted, like elderhood itself. They are at higher risk for health issues, yes, but chances are that if they are healthy now, they will be just fine four years from now. But if candidates come with risks, the fairest and most sensible approach is to judge them on the basis of their qualifications and policies, not their ages.

Arnon is a geriatrician and professor of medicine at the University of California, San Francisco.
OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross-section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Suit to block T-Mobile-Sprint merger hurts US telecom

The Wall Street Journal

Ten Democratic state Attorneys General on Tuesday sued to block T-Mobile’s merger with Sprint, and the timing was no coincidence. In June, the Department of Justice will soon make its decision on the merger, and Democrats, unions and big business are lining up to defeat it at the expense of America’s local and long-distance telecommunications networks.

The State AGs say the merger “would eliminate Sprint as a competitor and reduce the number of mobile network operators” with nationwide networks in the United States from three to four. But a market of three strong wireless companies was considered competitively sufficient as a duopoly, and the judge’s order, if upheld, will allow T-Mobile and Sprint to combine.

For the AGs, there was no legal reason to block the merger, and the timing of the lawsuit was to send a message that an adverse decision would result in legal action. The AGs maintain that Sprint and T-Mobile have yet to make a case that the merger will result in the creation of a dominant competitor.

State AGs including New York and California plan to file a lawsuit against the merger, and other state AGs are expected to join.

The suit is a political move to keep the issue in the public eye and paint a picture of a president who is not committed to free-market policies.

Migrants walk Friday past a large U.S. flag blanketing a portion of the border wall in protest to demand respect for migrants, as seen from Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. An administration request for border assistance has been stagnant in Congress while U.S. facilities for migrants are overwhelmed and in need of money.

State campaign violations dog U.S. Rep. Ilhan Omar

Star Tribune

U.S. Rep. Ilhan Omar is back in the news again, and not in a good way. The former state representative who won a seat in Congress last fall continues to be dogged by past missteps, this time eight violations of Minnesota campaign-finance law that cost her nearly $3,500 in reinstatements and civil penalties.

So complex were the allegations that the state Campaign Finance Board spent nearly a year assessing the case, deposing staff people and former staff people, along with Omar herself. The investigation concluded in October — just a month before her election to Congress — to look more deeply into the allegations. Board Executive Director Jeff Sigurdson said that between six and eight people were deposed separately.

In an October 2018 editorial, we called on Omar to take responsibility for her actions and errors. She has not. We noted that the allegations “suggest a pattern of carelessness and self-dealing with legally restricted funds. Neither conclusion inspires the confidence voters deserve to have in someone who leads the U.S. House to represent them.”

It is even more disturbing, therefore, to learn that among the board’s latest findings was a troubling discovery. One is far beyond its jurisdiction, but worthy of greater scrutiny nevertheless. Omar, for two years running, has let tax returns with a man she was living with but not legally married to. Complicating matters further, she was legally married to another man at the time.

It’s against the law in Minnesota to file jointly unless one filer is legally married to the other. House Approaches Star Tribune

Christina Torres-King

Migrants walk Friday past a large U.S. flag blanketing a portion of the border wall in protest to demand respect for migrants, as seen from Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. An administration request for border assistance has been stagnant in Congress while U.S. facilities for migrants are overwhelmed and in need of money.

Congress must OK aide for crisis on southern border

The New York Times

Last week, a federal court in Arizona held that the Trump administration’s policy of separating children from their parents at the border was unconstitutional. In May, 32,000 children were separated from their parents at the border. The child welfare system was able to reunite 30,000 of them and keep 2,000 in protective custody. Almost two-thirds of the children returned home to intact families. The other third went to juvenile detention centers.

The administration has claimed that the policy was necessary to deter illegal immigration. But the program has had a devastating impact on children and their families. The children have been separated from their parents in a cruel and arbitrary way, and the policy has resulted in the detention of tens of thousands of children.

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starsandstripes stripes.com/newsletters
Tennis

at Nottingham Tennis Centre

Game 1

Monday, June 17

Women.

First Round

Natalia Viki-Hyrynsuu, Russia, def. Anna K. Beckjan, Canada, 6-1, 6-0.

Second Round

Great Britain’s Kaja Juvan, def. Margarita Gasparyan, Russia, 6-2, 6-4.

Third Round

Kirsten Flipkens, Belgium, def. Lesia Tsurenko, Ukraine, 1-6, 6-2, 6-2.

Fourth Round

Elina Svitolina, Pakistan, def. Alize Cornet, France, 7-5, 6-2.

Round of 16

Camila Giorgi, Italy, def. Daria Kasatkina, Russia, 6-4, 6-2.

Round of 8

Sara Sorribes Tormo, Spain, def. Shelby Rogers, 6-2, 6-4.

Quarterfinals

Elise Mertens, Belgium, def. Kaja Juvan, 6-3, 6-3.

Third Round

Kajsa Anza, Sweden, def. Monica Puig, Puerto Rico, 6-3, 6-0.

Seven of the 10 biggest upsets in the third round: #3 seed Victoria Azarenka of Belarus lost to #16 seed Monique'A’rielle Davis, 6-3, 6-4. #2 seed Ashleigh Barty of Australia lost to #10 seed Petra Martic of Croatia, 6-2, 7-5. #4 seed Elise Mertens of Belgium lost to #12 seed Elina Svitolina of Ukraine, 7-6 (8-6), 7-6 (10-8). #5 seed Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus lost to #11 seed Tereza Sv只剩下部分文本。无法提供完整的翻译。
HOUSTON — On a night when the Milwaukee Brewers struck out again and again, piling up a second record for strikeouts, the Houston Astros, one big swing by Mike Moustakas made all those at-bats easy to forget.

Moustakas hit a two-run homer during Milwaukee’s three-run 14th inning, and the Brewers struck out 15 against A’s ace Justin Verlander before rallying for a 6-5 victory over the Astros on Wednesday night.

“Obviously, 24 punchouts isn’t what we were looking for, but...we got a win so we were definitely in a positive and found a way to win against a great ballclub,” Verlander said.

Christian Yelich started the 14th with a single against rookie Collin McHugh (2-1). Moustakas followed with his 21st home run, the most by a Brewer since the ninth. After that, Moustakas hit a drive to right for his 21st home run, the most by a Brewer since the ninth.

Verlander set a career high with 15 strikeouts as he improved to 15-6 with the AL West’s best record of 32-20. Moustakas, who played for Detroit last season, improved to 7-1 with the Athletics.

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Hamels, Cubs batter Rockies

Associated Press

DENVER — Cole Hamels struck out nine in seven scoreless innings, singled twice and drove in two runs to lead the Chicago Cubs past the Colorado Rockies 10-1 in a testy game on Wednesday.

Rockies All-Star third baseman Nolan Arenado left in the fifth inning with a left forearm contusion after Hamels (6-2) hit him with a pitch in the third, and three more batters — including Hamels — were hit by pitches later in the game. Colorado’s Kris Bryant was hit by pitches three times in the first two games of the series.

Javier Baez and Kyle Schwarber homered for Chicago, which snapped a five-game road losing streak. Colorado’s 10-game home winning streak ended.

Hamels’ performance earned him his 10th victory in 11 starts, and he was named the NL player of the week.

Kevin Durant has surgery on Achilles

BY JANE McCauley
Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Kevin Durant confirmed what everyone most feared: He underwent surgery for a ruptured right Achilles tendon.

Durant posted on social media Wednesday the severity of his injury two days after getting hurt during Game 5 of the NBA Finals in Toronto. He will have a strained right calf that sidelined him a month.

The three-year-old-old posted a photo on Instagram showing himself in a hospital bed and wrote: “I want ed to update you all. I did rupt -ure, shock. I don’t know what else to today and it was a success, EASY MONEY.”

Just 15 minutes before Durant went public, Warriors coach Steve Kerr said during a finals media availability that he didn’t have yet have a formal update on Durant. Dur ant has made his own announce ments before, such as writing on The Players’ Tribune website about his decision to leave Oklahoma City to join Golden State in July.

The Warriors said last Wednesday that Durant had the surgery at the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York, performed by Dr. Martin O’Malley.

Kerr said everyone in the organiza tion — fans, employees, owners — and Votto off rookie Zach Plesac.

Senzel and Joey Votto hit back-to-back home runs to cap a six-run fifth inning, Vladimir Tellez hit a grand slam to cap a five-game losing streak.

Lourdes Gurriel Jr. had two RBIs for the Blue Jays, who matched their run total from the previous five games combined. Tigers 3, Royals 2: Brandon Dixon broke an eighth-inning tie with a sacrifice fly that lifted De -trout to win at Kansas City.

Miguel Cabrera also had a sacrifice fly for the Tigers, and Ro nny Rodriguez hit an RBI double.

Gladiors 4, Padres 2: Evan Longoria drove in the go-ahead run with an infield single in the fifth inning after San Diego made two errors, and host San Fran cisco held on to complete a two-game sweep.

known that this was a possibility, that this was even in the realm of possibility, there’s no way we ever would have allowed Kevin to come back.

The game Monday, a teary, emotional general manager Bob Myers asked anyone who was looking to place blame to do so on him — not Durant, the medical staff or athletic trainers who worked so tirelessly to get him back.

Kerr said he also understands people wanting to point blame somewhere, though he noted, “Kevin checked all the boxes, and he was cleared to play by everybody involved,” including doctors from within the organization and from outside.

“I completely understand the world we live in. As Bob mentioned the other night, there’s going to be blame. There’s going to be finger-pointing. We understand that and we accept that. This is kind of what you sign up for when you get into coaching,” Kerr said.

The two-time reigning NBA Finals MVP was injured Monday night in the second quarter of Golden State’s 106-105 victory that forced a Game 6 at Oracle Arena on Thursday. The Raptors lead the best-of-seven series 3-2.

Durant was injured May 8 in Game 5 of the Western Conference semifinals against the Rockets, then missed the next nine games. A pending free agent, it’s unclear what might be next for Durant now that he is set for a long rehab and recovery.

Kevin Durant had surgery Wednesday on his ruptured right Achilles tendon and posted on Instagram that the surgery was a success.

Wild Cards AND STRIPES

Oakland 10-1, Toronto 9-

Justin Verlander had surgery last season while with New Orleans.

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Gladiors 4, Padres 2: Evan Longoria drove in the go-ahead run with an infield single in the fifth inning after San Diego made two errors, and host San Francis co held on to complete a two- game sweep.
Fans reach out to touch the Stanley Cup after the Blues arrived at the airport in St. Louis early Thursday morning. The Blues defeated the Bruins 4-1 in Game 7 of the Stanley Cup Final to win their first NHL championship on Wednesday in Boston.

**Note:** Blues capture first title

**Scoreboard**

**Stanley Cup Final**

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**Wednesday, Blues 4, Bruins 1**

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**Calender**

| June 20 | NHL general managers meeting, Vancouver, British Columbia. |
| July 1 | Free agency begins noon EDT. |

**Score Game 6 on Sunday to force the series to the limit.**

Bostom had home-ice advantage, along with a huge edge in Stanley Cup and Game 7 experience: Five Bruins remained from the team that beat Vancouver in seven to win the franchise’s sixth title in 2011, then returned to the final two years later.

But it was the rookie Binnington — not the 2014 Vezina Trophy winner Tuukka Rask — who took a shotout into the final minutes Wednesday. The Blues were never really in danger after scoring twice in the final few minutes of the first period.

**He bounced back. We knew he would,” Pietrangelo said. “Unbelievable first period. His confidence, his swagger, his belief in himself — unbelievable.”

Rask, who had been the favorite for the post-season MVP if the Bruins had won, stopped 16 shots. The Bruins outshot St. Louis 33-20, but Matt Grzelcyk scored Boston’s only goal.

The Blues went ahead at the end of the first period on goals from O’Reilly and Pietrangelo about three minutes apart. The second period was scoreless, then Schenn made it 3-0 with 8:35 to play and Sanford put it out of reach before the Bruins spoiled Binnington’s bid for a shutout.

“I’m sure there’s a bright, bright future for this team,” Chara said.

“I’m sure everyone pictured it differently, and we believed that it was there for us. That’s sports. You’ve got to kind of take those and move on.”

Returning to the site of their last appearance in the final, the Blues won for the third time in Boston this series and an NHL-record 10th time in the post-season.

“We’ve been a historical team. They’ve won so many Cups,” Blues defense Vince Dunn said. “We came into the season with a lot of hopes, and we let each other down a bit for the start of the season. But there was no doubt in our minds that we couldn’t come back and come out on top.”

Boston will have to console itself with the two major sports championships it has already won in the past year, or the dozen trophies since 2002 that have been chaufered through Boston in a parade of the city’s iconic, amphibious Duck Boats.

Three of them have come at St. Louis’ expense, including the cathartic 2004 Red Sox World Series title that ended an 86-year drought.

**Cup win a dream come true for MVP O’Reilly**

Blues center has big fan in 99-year-old grandmother

**BY STEPHEN WHYN**

Associated Press

BOSTON — Ryan O’Reilly should expect another email from his 99-year-old grandmother.

Congratulations from Deirdre O’Reilly are certainly in order after her grandson won the Stanley Cup and the Conn Smythe Trophy as the most valuable player in the NHL playoffs.

O’Reilly scored the opening goal for the St. Louis Blues in Game 7 of the Stanley Cup Final to help beat Boston 4-1 and give the franchise its first title in its 1st season.

“You dream of this for so long,” he said. “As a kid, that feeling comes back to you so you just what it means to win this thing. I still can’t believe this. I can’t believe I’m here right now and a Stanley Cup champion with this group of guys.”

O’Reilly made good on Doug Armstrong’s blockbuster trade to acquire him last summer — and the line he told the St. Louis general manager on that initial call: “Let’s go win a Cup.”

O’Reilly was a major reason for that. He set a Blues record with 24 playoff points and became the first player since Wayne Gretzky in 1985 to score in four consecutive Cup Final games.

“His worth ethic and his production for us all year and then throughout the playoffs, he was just a relentless hockey player for a long time,” coach Craig Berube said. “Never quits. Such a smart two-way player. He’s a special player.”

And O’Reilly did much of it after cracking a rib during the second round against Dallas and doing worse damage in the Western Conference finals against San Jose. O’Reilly wanted so badly to excel in these moments that he played through the pain.

“There was a couple tough games, but once you kind of get going and the adrenaline takes over, I didn’t notice it,” O’Reilly said.

O’Reilly’s grandmother watches and emails him from Seaforth, Ontario, where he grew up playing hockey. She knows when he skates to multiple pairs of skates when he was a kid and has tracked his progress very closely.

“She’s obviously a big part of my career,” O’Reilly said.

After scoring just three goals in his first 22 playoff games, the 28-year-old center scored five in the past four to carry the Blues to the Stanley Cup.

“He looks energized to me a little bit more, more jump in his stride out there, and he’s finishing,” Berube said recently. “He gets chances all the time, but he’s finishing right now.”

“I think O’Reilly had been waiting for after several soul-crushing seasons in Buffalo. After getting a taste of the playoffs with Colorado in 2010 and 2014, he missed with the Avalanche in 2015 and with the Sabres from 2016 to 2018.

O’Reilly raised eyebrows on locker cleanout day in Buffalo 15 months ago when he said he’d “lost the love of the game” multiple times throughout a trying season and needed to get it back.

“The trade to St. Louis last summer changed everything, and now it’s back in every possible way.”

“It’s very refreshing,” O’Reilly said. “I just kind of helps remind you what it all about and why as a kid you play the game to have a chance to win a Stanley Cup and to be a part of a group like this, it just gave me a new life and reminded of how good and exciting this game can be.”

**The Blues’ Ryan O’Reilly, center, celebrates his goal with teammates Jay Bouwmeester, left, and Alex Pietrangelo. O’Reilly won the Conn Smythe Trophy as the most valuable player in the NHL playoffs after setting a Blues record with 24 playoff goals and becoming the first player since Wayne Gretzky in 1985 to score in four consecutive Stanley Cup Final games.**

**MICHAEL DRYER**
STANLEY CUP FINAL

Blues dig in when they take the lead

BY STEPHEN WHYNO
Associated Press

BOSTON — When Alex Pietrangelo lifted a backhand over Tuukka Rask to give the St. Louis Blues a two-goal lead late in the first period, Boston fans went silent and the game felt like it lasted throughout intermission.

With good reason. The Blues have been a dominant force throughout the playoffs, and they were in control of things Wednesday evening.

The Blues found out what the San Jose Sharks, the Dallas Stars and the Winnipeg Jets learned the hard way: Don’t let the St. Louis Blues take a lead.

Craig Berube’s team showed during the regular season, the Dallas Stars and the Winnipeg Jets learned the hard way: Don’t let the St. Louis Blues take a lead.

They were handing down an NHL-record 138 multi-goal leads after winning Game 7 on the ice were clinical in holding on to a game, it gets increasingly difficult over the course of a game for an opponent to come back on the Blues. They also went 4-1 in chances to eliminate a team — and after losing Game 6 on home ice were clinical in holding on to a multi-goal lead in Game 7.

“Goals are scored, no lead is safe,” said rookie goaltender Jordan Binnington, a big part of making sure Blues’ leads were safe.

Binnington came out of nowhere to lead St. Louis to the Stanley Cup. He didn’t have the best numbers in the playoffs, or at least not close to his other-worldly regular season, but he was the biggest reason St. Louis’ goalie was to move to the crease. He had another excellent chance when Marcus Johansson came charging in alone from the right circle, but Binnington dove out to make the stop.

“I would have liked to be better, but that’s how it is,” said Marchand, who was held without a point in Games 2, 3 and 7 — all losses at home.

Boston seemed to fall apart defensively late in the period. On a slow change, the Blues collected the puck in the neutral zone and defenseman Jay Bouwmeester fired a shot from the point that Ryan O’Reilly tipped between Rask’s pads at 16:47.

“It takes one goal to get going to swing that momentum, we just didn’t get that one early enough,” Marchand said.

The Blues’ Charlie McAvoy reacts as the Blues celebrate Brayden Schenn’s goal that gave them a 3-0 lead with just over eight minutes remaining in the third period.

Quick momentum swing halts Bruins’ fast start

BY KEN POWTAK
Associated Press

BOSTON — The Boston Bruins will look back on a miserable three minutes all summer.

The Bruins had it all lined up: a raucous home crowd as they hosted the first Game 7 of a Stanley Cup Final in their 95-year history and a fast start that provided a handful of excellent scoring chances in the opening period against a St. Louis team that looked out of sorts and on its heels for a second straight game.

Then in a matter of three minutes, because of a slow line change and a bad turnover by forward David Pastrnak, the momentum was gone.

The Blues stunned the Bruins with two quick goals, that 2-0 lead into the first intermission and cruised to a 4-1 win Wednesday night to celebrate their first championship.

“It’s hard to find words,” 42-year-old captain Zdeno Chara said, fighting back tears and still healing from a badly injured jaw. “It’s not easy. I’m sure everyone pictured it differently and we believed that it was there for us. That’s sports. You’ve got to kind of take those and move on.”

The Blues outshot the Blues 12-4 in that first period, 23-10 through two and 33-20 overall. They were delivering punishing hits and, in the first 40 minutes, largely dictating play. It didn’t matter.

“IT’s 20 minutes. I think we’ve come back and we had confidence in ourselves,” Boston goaltender Tuukka Rask said of that first intermission. “That’s what we were saying. Obviously, it’s shocking when you dominate a period and you’re still down 2-nothing, but we still had 40 minutes to go.”

Rask made 16 saves — the first time his save percentage was below 90 percent in a game in the entire postseason. His career record fell to 3-3 in Game 7.

Boston came charging out quickly. The Bruins were handed a power play on a delay-of-game penalty by defenseman Colton Parayko 7:57 into the game and they certainly had their chances throughout the game, including 10 minutes of the game.

Brad Marchand, the team’s leading scorer in the postseason, was robbed by Jordan Binnington on a wrister from the slot. After the penalty was over, David Krejci cut in alone and Binnington flashed his right pad to rob his backhand from the edge of the crease. They had another excellent chance when Marcus Johansson came charging in alone from the right circle, but Binnington dove out to make the stop.

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The Blues’ Charlie McAvoy reacts as the Blues celebrate Brayden Schenn’s goal that gave them a 3-0 lead with just over eight minutes remaining in the third period.
Mickelson could be facing last real shot to shake off tortured history at tournament

By Eddie Pells
Associated Press

There was the hospitality tent at Winged Foot. There was Payne and the pager at Pinehurst. There was a near-miss at Merion. To list all of Phil Mickelson’s close calls, meltdowns and shortfalls at the U.S. Open is to peer into a particularly tortured chapter of the history of one of golf’s greatest champions.

More uplifting are the stories from Mickelson’s five tour victories at Pebble Beach — including one earlier this year. It’s what makes Mickelson’s trip this week to Pebble all that more tantalizing. It’s his chance to finally win the tournament he’s wanted so badly — maybe too badly — at a course teeming with history and good vibes for not only himself, but for his family and for the game itself.

It’s a week during which the five-time major winner, who turns 49 on the day of the final round, will come face to face with what could be his last, best chance to win the U.S. Open.

And become the sixth player to complete the career Grand Slam.

“No.” Mickelson said when asked if he felt pressure to capture the final leg of the slam in order to enhance his legacy. “It’s just that it would be pretty special to be part of the elite players that have won all four. To me, that’s the sign of a complete game.”

It’s hard to argue Mickelson hasn’t proven he has the game to win a U.S. Open. He has played in 25 of them as a professional, finished in the top 10 in 10, and finished runner-up in six of those. And yet, the defining trait of America’s national championship is that it delivers the ultimate examination of every part of a player’s game. That includes that it delivers the ultimate examination of a player’s game.

The Open is one that Mickelson admits he has the game to win. Yet to do so, he must overcome the pain of last year’s missed cut, a loss that for the first time, but played the last six holes in 3 over in an eventual loss to Justin Rose.

Golf’s perennial course-setup controversies, to say nothing of the long, star-crossed history he has written for himself in the major he has valued the most.

But if there was a single 20-minute stretch that defines Mickelson at the U.S. Open, it would be the 18th hole at Winged Foot in 2006. He carried a one-shot lead into final hole. His driver — Mickelson hit only two fairways the final round — bounced off a hospitality tent, well left of the fairway and behind a phalanx of trees that blocked his path to the green. Instead of punching out, trying to save par for the win or bogey for a playoff, he went for it. He dismissed the odds and chose against the fairway and behind a phalanx of trees that blocked his path to the green. Instead of punching out, trying to save par for the win or bogey for a playoff, he went for it. He dismissed the odds and chose against

The ball hit a tree and barely went 25 yards. Mickelson made double bogey and lost by one.

“I still am in shock that I did that. I just can’t believe that I did that,” Mickelson said afterward. “I am such an idiot.”

There were close calls both before and after that blow-up, starting in 1999 at Pinehurst, when Mickelson brought a pager with him in case his expecting wife, Amy, went into labor with the couple’s first child, Amanda. She didn’t. Mickelson played all four rounds. His loss to Payne Stewart after Stewart made and Mickelson missed a three-hole stretch on the final three holes didn’t feel all that devastating at the time. Though the loss kept him without a major title, he was 29. Mickelson was on the verge of becoming a father.

Father Time was only a faint apparition. Mickelson’s most recent second-place finish — in fact, his last showing in the top 25 at the U.S. Open — came in 2013 at Merion. He carried the outright lead into the final day for the first time, but played the last six holes in 3 over in an eventual loss to Justin Rose.

Phil Mickelson reacts after hitting out of a bunker on the second hole during the fourth round of the 2013 U.S. Open at Merion Golf Club in Ardmore, Pa. It was one of Mickelson’s record six runner-up finishes at the tournament.

He has three Masters titles, one British Open, one PGA Championship and nothing to show from the U.S. Open but a silver medal — a record six of them.

Nobody with access to a calendar will miss the irony in that next year, on the same week Mickelson turns 50 and becomes eligible for the senior tour, the U.S. Open will return to Winged Foot.

But first … Pebble Beach.

Nobody has won more trophies at the tournament known in its formative years simply as the Bing Crosby Clambake. And if Mickelson feels at home on the shores of the Monterey Peninsula, it makes sense. His maternal grandfather, Al Santos, grew up in the area, and even had a caddying gig at Pebble when it opened 100 years ago, in 1919.

Mickelson marks his ball with the 1900 silver dollar his grandfather kept in his pocket to remind him that he wasn’t poor.

Mickelson made his pro debut in the 1992 U.S. Open at Pebble Beach, where he opened with a 68 and was two out of the lead, but shot 81 on Friday to miss the cut. After his fifth victory there in February, a win that marked No. 44 for his career, Mickelson was asked about his history, and his future, at the course.

“I really don’t think there’s any carry-over from here to the U.S. Open. It’s a totally different golf course,” he said, a nod to the dry-and-crisp conditions in June, to say nothing of what the USGA usually does to its U.S. Open layouts. “I just really enjoy this place. I seem to play some of my best golf here and that’s probably about it.”

And so, the questions remain: Can he play his best golf there once again?

And if so, will it be enough to win a championship that has cruelly uncovered every flaw in his game, and turned him into Patient No. 1 on the day after Father’s Day for every armchair psychologist or Monday morning quarterback who ever put a tee in the ground?

If he does win it, will it change Mickelson’s place in golf history? He’s already in good company, one of 12 players, including Arnold Palmer, Lee Trevino, Tom Watson and Byron Nelson, to win three of the four legs of the modern slam. (Sam Snead is the only other whose missing title is the U.S. Open).

But there’s a chance Mickelson could find himself in even better company — as in, the company of the career Grand Slam winners: Gene Sarazen, Ben Hogan, Gary Player, Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods.

At least one more good chance.

“No matter what, he’s going to be one of the greatest players that’s ever played this game,” Woods said. “How he’s viewed and his future, at the course.

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“No matter what, he’s going to be one of the greatest players that’s ever played this game,” Woods said. “How he’s viewed and
US catches heat for celebrations

By Anne M. Peterson
Associated Press

REIMS, France — The goals were one thing, the celebrations another.

The U.S. women’s national team faced criticism following its record-breaking 13-0 rout of Thailand on Tuesday night. The win set a World Cup record for goals and margin of victory. Alex Morgan alone had five goals, matching the most in one game in tournament history.

But there were questions about whether the Americans should have celebrated goals once the game was well in hand. Were the three-time World Cup champions being unsportmanlike, or merely sending a message to the rest of the field?

Alex Morgan was asked afterward about the display of hugs, high-fives, and posturing for the camera. She pointed, but they have also been stepping up for one of her teammates.

“I don’t find it my job to rein my momentum and so as a coach,” he added.

Fourth goal, which made it 10-0.

When it comes to celebrations, “I’m happy also for her,” she said. “You know, win-dreamt of it since I was a little girl.”

The win set a new world record for goals and margin of victory. Alex Morgan alone had five goals, matching the most in one game in tournament history.

The United States’ Alex Morgan, left, hugs Thailand’s Miranda Nild at the end of the match on Tuesday, United States beat Thailand 13-0.

“This is what they’ve dreamt about. This is for them. This is a world championship.”

Rapinoe, interviewed on FOX Sports on Wednesday, also addressed the criticism.

“If anyone wants to come at our team for not doing the right thing, not playing the right way, not being a good ambassador, they can come at us. It was an explo-sion of joy, she said, “Of course it is joy, then we will take that.”

Rapinoe pointed to the team’s young players who scored their first World Cup goals and said they had every right to celebrate, including Samantha Mewis, Rose Lavelle, Mallory Pugh and Lindsey Horan.

In a postgame show of sportsmanship, the U.S. team also consoled some of the emotional Thai players. Morgan offered encouragement to forward Miranda Nild, who like Morgan played college soccer at Cal.

Thailand’s players were disappointed, but they have also been on the other end of blowouts. Thailand won a friendly over Indonesia 13-0 last year, and beat Cambodia 11-0 for the AFF Women’s Championship.

“In football games, everybody is following the rules, and everyone is trying their best,” Thai-land coach Nuengrutai Suphachalasai said. “We have to accept that, this team is Sweden, as well as Thailand and Chile.

It was understood that the top-ranked Americans would likely trounce Thailand, ranked 34th in the world, and possibly No. 39 Chile, which is making its World Cup debut. The game with Chile is set for Sunday in Paris.

The United States faces Swe-den in the final game of the group stage next week. It is their first meeting since the Swedes ousted the Americans from the 2016 Olympics in the quarterfinals — the team’s earliest exit ever.

Sweden bunkered on defense and afterward then-U.S. goalkeeper Hope Solo called the team cowards.

Rapinoe, considered one of the greats of the game, came up to me well, and I know how much she can give us. She came up to me and afterward then-U.S. goal-keeper Hope Solo called the team cowards.

“I made a huge, huge mistake but we showed our character,” Renard said. “Amel was speaking to me but I couldn’t really understand what she was saying. So to be safe I went to put it out for a corner but it ended up in the back of the net.”

“I could have ruined the night, it could have put us in difficulty mentally but we really showed that we are ready, that we are stron-g.”

It was second-ranked Germa-ny’s second successive 1-0 vic-tory in this year’s World Cup.

The Germans, who have always reached at least the quarterfinals at Women’s World Cups, had to overcome Thailand’s defense before taking the lead.

Spain’s lack of production spared Germany an upset to the 13th-ranked team that is playing in only its second World Cup.

“We were playing some great football,” Germany coach Josep Vida said through a translator, “and in the end some mistakes cost us dearly against a strong side.”

Scoreboard

First round

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The Blues’ Ivan Barbashev, left, and Vladimir Tarasenko hold the Stanley Cup after defeating the Bruins in Game 7 in Boston.

Blues top Bruins in Game 7

BY JIMMY GOLEN
Associated Press

BOSTON Blues goalie Jordan Binnington was waiting patiently, as NHL rookies learn to do, while the Stanley Cup was passed from teammate to teammate across the recently conquered ice of the new Boston Garden.

Thirteen St. Louis players took their turn with the iconic trophy, raising it above their heads, lowering it for a kiss, posing for a picture.

Finally, understudy Jake Allen gave the starter a little shove, and the Game 7 star timidly skated forward to receive the Cup and cap off one of the great rookie runs in NHL history.

Binnington stopped 32 shots, and Conn Smythe Trophy winner Ryan O’Reilly scored for the fourth straight game Wednesday night to lead the Blues to a 4-1 victory over the Boston Bruins in Game 7 of the Stanley Cup Final and their first NHL championship.

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