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STARS AND STRIPES®

Volume 78, No. 152 ©SS 2019 CONTINGENCY EDITION

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2019

stripes.com

Free to Deployed Areas

Drills and diplomacy

North Korea raises stakes
after Esper says US could
'adjust' military exercises



By **KIM GAMEL**
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The United States might adjust military exercises in South Korea for the sake of diplomacy with the North, the defense secretary said, as the communist state warned that it's running out of patience for the U.S. to soften its denuclearization demands.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper made his comments to reporters traveling with him to Seoul, where he is due to hold alliance talks with senior

South Korean officials on Friday.

Washington already has canceled or reduced the scope of several annual exercises after President Donald Trump announced he was "stopping the war games" after his first summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un last year.

But the North considers all allied military activity on the divided peninsula a rehearsal for an invasion and was not appeased when training continued.

The allies have said they plan to hold a joint air force exercise next month to replace the drills

previously known as Vigilant Ace.

"We will adjust our exercise posture either more or less depending on what diplomacy may require," Esper said, while stressing the need to maintain readiness.

Any decision on "dialing up or dialing down exercises and training stuff like that" would be made in close collaboration with the South Koreans, Esper said, according to a transcript provided by the Pentagon.

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U.S. Air Force F-15C Eagles taxi to the runway for takeoff in December 2017 at Gwangju Air Base, South Korea, during Exercise Vigilant Ace-18. The U.S. and South Korea have said they plan to hold a joint air force exercise next month.

KRISTEN A. HELLER/U.S. Air Force

Key takeaways from start of House impeachment hearings

By **ERIC TUCKER, MICHAEL BALSAMO**
AND **MARY CLARE JALONICK**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The start of public impeachment hearings unfolding in Congress marks the first time the American public can watch and listen to the witnesses whose testimony is at the center of the

Democrats' investigation.

In several hours of testimony, punctuated by occasional bickering among lawmakers, some memorable moments have emerged.

Here are some key takeaways from Wednesday's hearing featuring the first public witnesses, George Kent and William Taylor.

Trump pushed for Biden investigation

Hearings like this one can be scripted affairs. But on Wednesday, there was one early surprise: Taylor, the top diplomat in Ukraine, revealed for the first time that his staff members overheard the president speaking on the phone to another diplomat

about investigations.

Taylor said some of his staff members were at a restaurant with Gordon Sondland, ambassador to the European Union, on the day after the July 25 call between President Donald Trump and Ukraine's newly elected president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

SEE HEARINGS ON PAGE 8

MILITARY

Airman's actions offer a window on bigger issue

By **MARCUS KLOECKNER**
AND **JENNIFER H. SVAN**
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — An airman might have been trying to do the right thing last weekend by sleeping off a night of drinking instead of driving home.

But the car, on which the 25-year-old punched out the window before climbing in and passing out, doesn't belong to him, according to German police, who woke up the airman after several tries and handed him over to American military police.

The incident is just one of a number of recent cases of young U.S. service members in Germany getting in trouble after drinking too much. The issue, which has caught the attention of U.S. military leaders in Kaiserslautern, may lead to a change in the way American military police and German law enforcement officers conduct joint patrols in areas such as downtown Kaiserslautern or Landstuhl, which are popular with American service members.

German police in Landstuhl found the sleeping airman in a Ford Mondeo with a broken window early Saturday morning after the car's owner called the police to report, "There is a stranger in my car," Landstuhl police said in a statement.

The car was parked on Am Berg, a street close to one of Landstuhl's main roads and near several bars and restaurants.

A spokesman for the 86th Airlift Wing at Ramstein confirmed the airman was assigned to the wing but did not name him. The airman "will repay the local national, in full, for the cost of the damages and repairs to the vehicle," wing spokesman Kilian Blumlein said in an email.

The incident, which is under investigation, happened days after a meeting, aimed at reducing the number of drinking-related incidents involving U.S. service members, last month between U.S. military officials and local bar owners. Col. Jason Edwards,

U.S. Army Garrison Rheinland-Pfalz commander, called the meeting after going on a late-night foot patrol in Kaiserslautern with military police.

"There's a need for us to address the conduct of our military members downtown. We don't want our people causing problems," Edwards told the meeting, according to a statement released by Army Installation Management Command-Europe.

Edwards and Col. Robert Thompson, 86th Mission Support Group commander at Ramstein, who also attended the meeting, said increasing the off-base presence of U.S. security forces on weekend nights in places popular with service members and having captains and first sergeants accompany military police on foot patrols might help reduce the number of alcohol-related incidents involving service members.

"At this time, there's no increase on the patrols themselves, just flexing the ability to increase when a need is projected for certain events," garrison spokesman Stefan Alford said.

A U.S. staff sergeant was recently referred to a court-martial on assault charges after he was involved in a fight in the parking lot of a Kaiserslautern club, Edwards said. And, in the past 60 days, the Army has issued seven reprimands for incidents, including driving under the influence and traffic accidents, after leaving clubs in the Kaiserslautern, Landstuhl and Baumholder areas, the IMCOM statement said.

German law enforcement officials said although alcohol-related disorderliness is common in downtown Kaiserslautern and Landstuhl, especially on weekends and around American holidays, there hasn't been a spike in incidents involving U.S. service members. Such incidents are common, said Bernhard Christian Erfort, a Kaiserslautern police spokesman. "But we cannot say there's been an increase."

kloeckner.marcus@stripes.com
svan.jennifer@stripes.com

Ex-Army employee admits taking bribes

By **WYATT OLSON**
Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — A former Army employee pleaded guilty Tuesday to taking bribes while serving as director of the range at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii, the third person to plead guilty in the ongoing corruption investigation.

Victor Garo, of Milliani, Hawaii, pleaded guilty in District of Hawaii federal court to conspiracy to accept over \$100,000 in bribes, the U.S. Department of Justice said in a statement Wednesday.

Garo, 67, also pleaded guilty to one count of illegally transporting firearms across state lines.

He is scheduled to be sentenced in March before Chief Judge J. Michael Seabright in District of Hawaii court.

In his plea agreement, Garo admitted that while employed as training range director at the Army's Schofield Barracks from 2011 through 2018 he accepted bribes in the form of cash, automobiles and firearms from an employee of a federal contractor.

As the most senior Defense Department employee on the range, Garo supervised employees and used his position to benefit the contractor in securing Army contracts, according to court documents.

That contractor employee, John Winslett, 65, of Bristol, R.I., pleaded guilty in September to one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and another count of conspiracy to accept kickbacks in connection with a U.S. government contract, the Justice Department said in a statement at the time of the plea.

Winslett had steered federal contracts worth at least \$19 million to his employer, and he admitted to accepting more

than \$723,000 in kickbacks from a local subcontractor.

Winslett paid more than \$100,000 in bribes to Garo and Franklin Raby, a former range operations manager at Schofield Barracks.

Raby, of Greeneville, Tenn., pleaded guilty in May in a federal court in Tennessee to accepting bribes and disclosing sensitive Army procurement information.

Raby retired as an Army sergeant major in 2004, according to court documents. He served as a range operations manager for the U.S. Army Hawaii Range Division at Schofield Barracks from May 2006 to May 2018, according to the Army.

Among the bribes Raby received from Winslett were a classic 1969 Ford Galaxie sent to his son's home in Greeneville, a custom H&H .375-caliber rifle and diamond earrings valued at \$2,300.

U.S. Army Hawaii said in a statement Wednesday that it will continue to support the ongoing investigation by the Army Criminal Investigation Command, the U.S. Defense Criminal Investigative Service, the FBI and the Justice Department.

"U.S. Army Hawaii is committed to upholding the highest ethical standards and fully supports the thorough investigation and prosecution of suspected cases of fraud, waste or abuse," the statement said. "We continue to emphasize to our personnel that, as federal employees, they play a critical role in ensuring the legal, ethical and appropriate use of resources entrusted to us."

olson.wyatt@stripes.com
Twitter: @WyattWOlson

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MILITARY

DOD to expand commissary access to vets, caregivers

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon will expand access to discounted, on-post stores for some 4.1 million veterans and some of their caregivers at the beginning of 2020, the Defense Department announced Wednesday.

The expansion, which begins Jan. 1, will grant veterans with a documented service-related disability, Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war and certain Department of Veterans Affairs-approved designated veteran caregivers access to commissaries, military exchanges, and some morale, welfare and recreation services on bases within the United States, the Pentagon announced. The expansion of access was required in the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act named for the late Sen. John McCain.

"These new privileges recognize the service and sacrifice

of these veterans and those that care for them," A.T. Johnston, the deputy assistant secretary of defense for military community and family policy, said in a prepared statement.

For years, eligibility to shop at on-base commissaries and exchanges in the United States has been largely limited to active-duty troops, members of the National Guard and reserves, and military retirees and their family members. In 2017, the Pentagon opened online versions of military exchanges to some 20 million honorably discharged veterans.

Sens. John Boozman, R-Ark., and Brian Schatz, D-Hawaii, spearheaded efforts in recent years to open the services to more veterans, especially ones injured in combat or held prisoner.

"If you have the Purple Heart, you should also have access to the commissary. It's as simple as that," Schatz said last year.

The senators also touted

their plan as an opportunity to strengthen the commissary systems, which have suffered in recent years amid fewer shoppers. Last year, the Defense Commissary Agency announced its sales had slumped 20% during the previous five years. The agency responded by increasing operating hours, adding new products and launching new promotions aimed at driving customers back into the stores.

Defense Department officials said Wednesday that the expansion of access, however, is not designed to "boost retail store profits," but only to honor the individuals who lawmakers have deemed worthy of receiving the benefits.

Veterans newly eligible to shop at commissaries and exchanges must possess a VA-issued Veteran Health Identification Card in order to be granted access to installations and prove their eligibility, according to a DOD state-



JOHN ZOURBA/Defense Commissary Agency

The McGuire Commissary at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., is shown in December 2014.

ment announcing the changes. Officials are still finalizing some details, primarily with regard to installation access for people now allowed on military bases by law, the department said Wednesday.

The Pentagon also warned newly eligible shoppers of commissaries will be charged a small "user fee" designed to offset new costs to the Treasury Department for processing additional commercial credit and debit cards. That fee, the amount of which was

not specified by Pentagon officials, will be in addition to the 5% surcharge that the commissaries charge all customers to pay for improvements within the stores.

"Even with the surcharge, patrons receive an average worldwide savings of 23.7% over commercial grocery stores," according to a Pentagon fact sheet detailing the newly granted access.

dickstein.corey@stripes.com
Twitter: @CDicksteinDC

Drills: North Korea says 'ball is in the US court' on chance of renewed talks

FROM FRONT PAGE

Esper also insisted the decision would not be "a concession to North Korea or anything, but again, as a means to keep the door open to diplomacy."

North Korean warnings

North Korea responded by raising the stakes on Thursday with separate statements in quick succession rebuffing what it said was a U.S. offer to hold talks next month and calling on Esper to cancel upcoming drills.

Former nuclear negotiator Kim Yong Chol noted that Esper's comments came after another North Korean official warned the country would retaliate against the drills in a statement on the state-run Korean Central News Agency.

"I would like to understand it as the U.S. intention to drop out of the joint military drill or complete stop it," Kim said of Esper's comment.

Kim Yong Chol, the chairman of the Korea Asia-Pacific Peace Committee, said he hoped Esper's remarks reflected President Donald Trump's intentions to maintain momentum in the U.S.-North Korean nuclear negotiations.

"However, if this ends up with our naive interpretation and the hostile provocation is committed ... we will be compelled to answer with shocking punishment that would be difficult for the U.S. to cope with," he said.

The response to Esper appeared on KCNA shortly after another North Korean official said that the U.S. special envoy for North Korea Stephen Biegun had



AHN YOUNG-JOON/AP

Protesters stage a rally to oppose a planned visit by U.S. Secretary for Defense Mark Esper in front of the Defense Ministry in Seoul, South Korea, on Thursday.

sent a request via a third party to hold negotiations next month.

Kim Myong Gil, a roving ambassador with the North Korean Foreign Ministry, said the North is ready to meet with the Americans "at any place and any time" but only if the United States is willing to change its negotiating stance.

Talks aimed at persuading the North to give up its nuclear weapons program have faltered after the two sides failed to reach an agreement during the second Trump-Kim summit in February and subsequent working-level talks.

Kim Jong Un has warned the North may abandon talks and resume long-range missile and

nuclear tests if the United States doesn't come up with a more flexible approach by the end of the year.

"The ball is in the U.S. court," the foreign ministry official said. Kim Myong Gil also dismissed the idea of the United States offering a declaration to formally end the 1950-53 Korean War, which was concluded with an armistice instead of a peace treaty, or the establishment of a liaison office.

"I intuitively feel that the U.S. is not ready to give a satisfactory answer to us and its proposal for dialogue with us is a trick to earn time," he said. "Explicitly speaking once again, I am not interested in such a meeting."

The flurry of statements came

a day after North Korea lashed out at a planned exercise and warned that Washington will face a "greater threat" if it ignores the end-of-year deadline.

Possible escalation

Experts said the North could be trying to take advantage of Trump's domestic political woes by ramping up demands for sanctions relief and security guarantees as the impeachment hearings are underway in Washington.

Harry Kazianis, of the Washington-based Center for the National Interest, noted that Trump wouldn't likely risk losing support from hawkish Republican senators and predicted more missile tests in coming days.

The North has conducted a series of short-range missile and rocket launches this year but so far refrained from long-range missile and nuclear tests.

"I think they're making it very clear they're willing to escalate this if the U.S. and (South Korea) are going to continue with these military exercises," Kazianis said in a telephone interview.

Esper, who is making his second trip to South Korea since taking office, also reiterated that he will press Seoul to reverse its decision to terminate a military intelligence sharing agreement with Japan, which expires on Nov. 23.

South Korea gave notice in August that it would cancel the General Security of Military Information Agreement, known as GSOMIA, due to a dispute with Japan over trade and historical issues.

"The GSOMI agreement must be maintained," Esper said. "It's critical to sharing intelligence, particularly in a timely manner with regard to any type of North Korean actions."

"The only folks who are benefiting from this dispute right now are North Korea and China," he added.

Esper will travel to Thailand, the Philippines and Vietnam after his visit to South Korea ends this weekend.

"The broader message is that we are postured to deal with China in the long run," he said. "China is our number one priority in this new era of global — of great power competition."

gamei.kim@stripes.com
Twitter: @kimgamei

PACIFIC

Preserver of history

Stars and Stripes librarian retires after 40 years among the archives

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Thousands of newspapers dating back to 1945, countless clippings of old stories and half a million priceless photographs fill a room that Norio Muroi has tended for the past four decades.

Stars and Stripes' library in Tokyo preserves the stories and heroics of countless service members from World War II and the Korean and Vietnam wars alongside records of newsworthy events on American bases in the Far East over the past 75 years.

Muroi, 65, who retires Friday, has worked in the newspaper's library for more than half of that time span.

A tailor's son from Otawara in Tochigi prefecture, Muroi in 1977 was studying economics at Hosei University in Tokyo when he started as a Stars and Stripes copyboy, he recalled during a recent tour of the library at Hardy Barracks, the newspaper's Pacific headquarters in the Japanese capital.

"It was rare to see American people so much in those days and to have an opportunity to talk with native speakers," he said of his first days on the job, when he was eager to practice the English he'd learned at school.

Just steps from the nightlife hub of Roppongi, Hardy Barracks was a hive of activity. Dozens of U.S. military and civilian staff members and 180 Japanese worked to publish hundreds of thousands of newspapers each day for service members on the main islands of Japan, Okinawa, Korea and other parts of the Pacific such as the Philippines, Vietnam, Taiwan and Guam.

It was an era before online news or Google searches, when printed newspapers provided a vital link to home for troops stationed overseas.

"We were like tennis ball boys," Muroi said of the copyboys, who spent mornings rushing about the newsroom carrying story drafts and messages to editors. The youngsters burned plenty of calories and looked forward to a free Coke from the sports editor at the end of each shift, he recalled.



PHOTOS BY THERON GOLDBLOOM/Stars and Stripes

Norio Muroi began working for Stars and Stripes' Tokyo office as a copyboy in 1977 and began working in the library in 1979.

Full-time librarian

In 1979, he started full time in the library, which had a chief and four Japanese employees. Two kept track of photographs and two were assigned to cut up 10 newspapers each day and sort the clippings into categories that could be researched for future stories.

Known today as the Toshi Cooper Library, it holds at least 250,000 clippings that are stored in envelopes and filed so they can be searched by subject, such as notable figures, military units and campaigns.

But Muroi didn't spend his entire career among the archives. Some of his most memorable experiences involved serving as an interpreter for journalists in the field.

In February 1982, he and the other librarians acting as temporary linguists joined reporters rushing to a fire at the Hotel New Japan that, ultimately, claimed 32 lives not far from the Sanno Hotel, a U.S. military property.

The following day, Muroi was back in the field as an interpreter

after a Japan Air Lines pilot intentionally crashed a DC-8 airliner at Haneda Airport, killing 24 people, he said.

Another memorable linguist assignment involved a ride in a Kodak blimp over Tokyo.

"I even got to sit in the pilot's seat," he said. "That's a rare experience."

Plenty of famous faces, including Michael Jackson, Billy Joel and Rihanna, have passed through Hardy Barracks during Muroi's tenure.

Two of the most memorable stars he met on the job were folk musician Jim Denver and baseball Hall of Famer Joe DiMaggio, Muroi said, proudly showing off photographs of his 1992 encounter with Joltin' Joe. He met the Yankee legend while helping a sports reporter cover the U.S.-Japan baseball series at the now-demolished Korakuen Stadium.

Valuable resources

The library that he's handing off to his successor, Akiko Takamizawa, is a recently renovated, state-of-the-art facility that features constant temperature and humidity control.

It stores hundreds of large, red volumes that contain original Stars and Stripes newspapers sorted by month all the way back to 1945 and countless clippings and old photographs preserved in hundreds of white boxes on metal racks.

The library has about 500,000 photographs taken by Stars and Stripes staff or sourced from news agencies or U.S. military service branches over the years, Muroi said.

He opened a box of photographs and found black-and-white prints of images taken during the Vietnam War by Gary Cooper, an enlisted Stars and Stripes reporter who eventually married

the library's namesake, longtime librarian Toshi Cooper.

One of those photos shows a wounded soldier getting aid from a couple of buddies on the battlefield. The print, like hundreds of thousands of others in the library, is coded to allow librarians to track negatives stored at the Stars and Stripes Europe library in Kaiserslautern, Germany. The libraries are gradually digitizing those negatives for posterity.

The library isn't just a valuable resource for working journalists. Muroi's work also involves tracking down old stories and photographs for veterans or those whose friends or relatives have appeared in Stars and Stripes over the years.

For example, his research skills came in handy when a woman contacted the newspaper in December 2017 looking for old photographs of her father, Gordon Windhorn, who played professional baseball in Japan in the 1960s. The family's own photographs from that time were destroyed in a fire, Muroi said.

He tracked down images of Windhorn in the library along with other photos held by the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan and the Baseball Hall of Fame Museum in Tokyo and sent them to the family.

Muroi said he's had plenty of useful advice over the years from Toshi Cooper, who served as librarian from 1948 to 1971. Now chairwoman emeritus of the Stars and Stripes Association, which organizes reunions of former employees, Cooper described Muroi as the ideal newspaper librarian.

"He has everything it takes to be the perfect research librarian," she said. "He is studious, calm and steady, curious, patient, selfless, a good listener, devoted and, above all that, he loves Stars and Stripes."

Purpose of preservation

Muroi vividly remembers the library shaking during the massive magnitude 9.0 earthquake that devastated Japan in March 2011.

One of Stars and Stripes' initial reports on the disaster says the shaking tipped over a television, knocked a clock off the wall and scattered the contents of filing cabinets in the newsroom.

The quake triggered a tsunami that caused a meltdown at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant and claimed nearly 16,000 lives. At the library, the quake caused water leaks but no damage to the archives. However, the building still has cracks in its walls.

Preserving Stars and Stripes' archives and other documents in the building is important, Muroi said.

"No matter how digital technology expands in the future the original is coming from here," he said.

Muroi plans to stay in Tokyo after retirement and spend time hiking with his wife, Yoshiko.

The couple's first trip will be to a Japanese hot spring, he said.

Muroi said what he'll miss most after leaving the library is access to the old newspapers.

"When I'm retired it will be hard to see the newspapers page by page," he said. "That's the part I'll miss the most."

robson.seth@stripes.com
Twitter: @SethRobson1



This photo taken during the Vietnam War by former Stars and Stripes photographer Gary Cooper is among the thousands stored inside the newspaper's library at Hardy Barracks in Tokyo.

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VETERANS

Veterans a key target in 2020 election fraud

By STEVE BEYNON
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Veterans are a key target for online fraud and attempts to meddle in U.S. elections, with bogus web pages and charities aimed at the military community pushing propaganda and disinformation to gin up political discord, tech industry leaders and lawmakers said Wednesday.

"Veterans wield considerable influence and credibility in their communities," Rep. Mark Takano, D-Calif., chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, said at a hearing about the issue. "That esteemed trust in our veterans is now being hijacked by foreign imposters online and used to spread harmful disinformation, political propaganda and fake news. Foreign actors are stealing veterans' voices and images in order to influence political opinions heading into an election year."

In September, Vietnam Veterans of America, a nonprofit veterans advocacy group, released a report that found veterans are a big target of foreign agents who spread disinformation, sow political division, attempt financial scams through bogus charities and recruit spies.

Election meddling and disinformation campaigns online have increased since 2016, representatives from some social media giants said Wednesday at the House hearing. Most fraudulent accounts are terminated via automatic tools employed by Facebook and Twitter before any user has a chance to see them, according to representatives from both companies. However, foreign agents are able to operate accounts undetected and potentially interact with hundreds of thousands of people online, sometimes misrepresenting themselves as legitimate organizations.

"Some bad actors create multiple pages, some of which may represent veterans organizations," said Nathaniel Gleicher, head of security policy for Facebook. "Others might impersonate organizations that focus on politically sensitive issues."

The social media representatives told lawmakers that their companies don't have a good way to judge the scope of scams on their platforms or nefarious foreign agents looking to rattle the cages of voters. However, Twitter identified 50,258 Russia-linked accounts tweeting political con-

tent during the 2016 election. But those accounts are fewer than 0.02% of total accounts on Twitter at the time, according to the company's data. At the same time, these malicious accounts sent out 2.12 million tweets.

Social media giants such as Facebook and Twitter have made efforts to squash foreign interference, they said. But in general, lawmakers on Capitol Hill have not been satisfied with the tech industry's progress, though social media companies contend it can be challenging picking out propaganda outlets.

"We certainly want to avoid a whack-a-mole situation," Kevin Kane, public policy manager of Twitter, said Wednesday about being careful over who gets banned from the social media platform. "Twitter engages in intensive efforts to identify and combat state-sponsored and non-state-sponsored hostile attempts to abuse our platforms. Our work on this issue is not done, nor will it ever be."

Concerns in Washington go beyond Russian meddling in U.S. elections. According to the VVA's findings, Russians have posed as Islamic State terrorists to intimidate journalists and veteran advocates.

"It's important to note that the military families were not chosen at random," Kristofer Goldsmith, chief investigator and associate director for policy and government affairs for the VVA, said at the House hearing. "One was a reporter at Military.com, the others were prominent members of the community of military and veteran advocates. I want to emphasize this point: Russian hackers who were pretending to be ISIS sent terroristic threats to advocates and reporters."

The VVA had found a foreign-backed social media page with twice the number of followers of its own page using the veterans' group's logo and name.

The foreign page posted a plagiarized Stars and Stripes story reporting a proposal from President Donald Trump to cut veterans' benefits to expand access to private health care. The article was basically true, but when foreign agents posted it four months later, the date was altered and the original reporter's byline was removed to make it look more immediate and urgent, in hopes of stirring aging veterans into a false panic, according to the VVA.

beynon.steven@stripes.com
Twitter: @StevenBeynon

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WAR/MILITARY

US: Countries must take back, try ISIS fighters

By MATTHEW LEE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — European and other members of the international coalition fighting Islamic State must take back and prosecute their nationals detained in Iraq and Syria to help keep ISIS from regaining territory, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Thursday.

Pompeo told foreign ministers and senior officials from some 30 coalition members that it's imperative that they hold thousands of detained foreign fighters accountable for atrocities committed while ISIS held swaths of territory in the two countries.

Many detained foreign fighters are from Europe, but countries have been reluctant to take them back. Pompeo said bringing them

to justice is critical to preventing ISIS from resurrecting its caliphate and exporting its ideology.

"That work begins with carrying out justice against those who deserve it," he said. "Coalition members must take back the thousands of foreign terrorist fighters in custody and impose accountability for the atrocities they have perpetrated."

A meeting Thursday in Washington of members of the coalition came amid concerns about the U.S. commitment to the fight against ISIS remnants. Those concerns have increased as President Donald Trump has pressed to withdraw American troops from Syria.

Pompeo dismissed those concerns and said the U.S. would continue to lead the coalition. He noted that U.S. forces had killed



SUSAN WALSH/AP

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, second from right, meets with Syria Small Group Ministerial participants in Washington on Thursday. Pompeo is boosting pressure on the European members of the anti-ISIS coalition to take back and prosecute their nationals detained in Iraq and Syria.

ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi and his deputy.

"Ask them if there's a deficit of American leadership in fighting ISIS," he said, pointing out that the U.S. still has forces in Syria despite the recent Turkish invasion.

Those troops, he said, will allow the U.S. to retain the ability to launch airstrikes on ISIS targets and protect oil fields that the

militants had once used to bring in significant revenue.

Pompeo also urged coalition participants to step up funding for U.N. relief and reconstruction projects in Iraq and Syria to allow for the return of millions of civilians displaced by years of conflict.

As the effort in Iraq and Syria goes on, Pompeo said it will also be critical to keep ISIS from ex-

panding its reach to other areas, notably the Sahel region in west Africa where he said the group "is outpacing the ability of regional governments and international partners to address the threat."

"The fight against ISIS is a long-term test of will, a test of civilization against barbarism," he said. "We know where we stand. Let's work together to make sure our enemy does too."

Syrian troops begin deploying along border with Turkey

By ALBERT AJI
Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria — Syrian government forces started deploying Thursday in areas close to the Turkish border in the country's northeast as part of an agreement reached between Russia and Turkey, state media reported.

News agency SANA said troops were deploying between the towns of Jawadiyeh and Malkiyeh, also known as Derik, while state-run TV said Syrian border guards will be positioned at six points near to the frontier.

The deployment is part of a cease-fire deal brokered by Moscow last month along much of the northeastern border that seeks to clear the area of the Kurdish fighters who were key U.S. allies in the fight against Islamic State. Since the agreement was reached, Russia and Turkey

began joint patrols along a narrower strip directly on the Turkish-Syrian border.

Turkey began a major military offensive against Kurdish fighters in northern Syria last month, capturing dozens of towns and villages.

SANA reported that since Turkey began its invasion of northern Syria on Oct. 9, some 19,776 families have been displaced from the northern countryside of Hasakeh province. It added that services are being provided to the displaced in 48 housing shelters.

Also Thursday, President Bashar Assad said there are possibilities that a former British army officer who helped found the White Helmets volunteer organization in Syria was killed in Turkey.

Turkish officials had said that the death of James Le Mesurier in Istanbul this week is under investigation. Le Mesurier was the

founder and CEO of Mayday Rescue, which founded and trained the White Helmets, also known as the Syria Civil Defense, a group of local humanitarian volunteers.

He was 48 and had moved to Turkey with his wife four years ago, according to Turkey's official Anadolu news agency. Le Mesurier's body was found near his home in the Beyoglu district by worshippers on their way to a mosque, the agency reported.

"Maybe the founder of the White Helmets was planning to write a book about his life. This is unacceptable," Assad said in an interview with Russia's state-owned Russia 24. "These are possibilities, but they are big possibilities."

Assad added that "there is a big possibility that Turkish intelligence carried out this act at the orders of foreign agencies. I repeat these are possibilities."



AP

Erma Hedvig Christina Winberg, the widow of British army officer James Le Mesurier, leaves after being questioned by Turkish police in Istanbul on Wednesday. Syrian President Bashar Assad speculated Thursday that Le Mesurier may have been killed.

Italian law mandating child seat alarms exempts most GIs

By NORMAN LLAMAS
Stars and Stripes

A new law in Italy that requires car seats to be fitted with an alarm that sounds when a child is left alone in a vehicle doesn't apply to most U.S. service members but could affect others at bases in Italy.

Service members, family members and civilians who work for the U.S. military whose vehicles

are registered "through their installation with Armed Forces in Italy plates" are exempt from the law, which came into force last week, Maj. Sarah Babcock, spokeswoman for the 31st Fighter Wing at Aviano Air Base, said in a statement.

But dependents with Italian residency, U.S. military retirees and others who have a car registered through the Italian system could be required to use seats

with alarms while transporting children until they reach 4 years old.

The law applies to "vehicles registered in Italy or to vehicles registered abroad but driven by a resident of Italy," Babcock said.

Failure to abide by the new law and install one of the alarms — estimated to cost between 50 and 100 euros — could result in the driver being fined up to 326 euros and having penalty points

added to their license.

A second offense within two years could result in a suspended license.

Car seats with integrated motion sensors that set off alarms and flashing lights if a child is left in a car are also available. The alarms can be linked to a cellphone.

The new law was enacted in response to the spate of deaths of infants and toddlers whose parents

forgot them in hot cars.

Nearly 1,000 young children in the U.S. have died after being left alone in cars since 1990, advocacy group Kids and Cars says on its website. Last year, 52 children died in hot cars in the U.S., most of them during the summer months.

llamas.norman@stripes.com
Twitter: @normanllamas

MILITARY

Ukraine gets 2 US patrol boats

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany—The U.S. has transferred two Island-class patrol boats to Ukraine and plans to send three more to help boost the country's navy, which is heavily outgunned by Russian forces.

The two retired Coast Guard vessels were formally handed over to Ukraine at a ceremony in the port of Odessa on Wednesday — the same day that U.S. diplomats testifying in an impeachment hearing in Washington said delays in American military aid have raised doubts about the Trump administration's commitment to Ukraine.

The boats represent a portion of the \$1.6 billion in security assistance provided to Ukraine since 2014. While Ukraine didn't pay for the former Coast Guard cutters, which it received under the Excess Defense Articles program, it did pay for the boats' transfer and for Ukrainian crews to be trained, the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv said.

Three additional Island-class patrol boats will be handed over in the near future, the embassy said.

Joseph Pennington, acting U.S. ambassador in Ukraine, said during the ceremony in Odessa that the high-speed vessels will bolster the Ukrainian navy's ability to "defend the nation's sovereignty and territorial integrity," according to a statement Wednesday.

Island-class patrol boats are equipped with an automatic Mk 38 Mod 0 Bushmaster 25 mm artillery unit, two 12.7 mm machine guns and a radar station.

"The boats will also provide greater situational awareness in the Black Sea, increasing the security of Ukraine's coastline and shipping lanes, and they will help Ukraine to prevent smuggling through its waters," Pennington said.

But as Pennington talked up America's solidarity with Ukraine, the top U.S. envoy in the country blasted a Trump administration decision to with-

hold security assistance during the summer in the hope of getting Ukraine to investigate political rival Joe Biden and his son, Hunter.

"To withhold that assistance for no good reason other than help with a political campaign made no sense," William B. Taylor Jr. told the House Intelligence Committee during Wednesday's impeachment hearing. "It was counterproductive to all of what we had been trying to do. It was illogical. It could not be explained. It was crazy."

George Kent, a senior State Department official and Ukraine expert, raised similar concerns during the impeachment hearing.

"I think the signal that there is controversy and question about the U.S. support of Ukraine sends the signal to (Russian President) Vladimir Putin that he can leverage that as he seeks to negotiate with not only Ukraine but other countries," Kent said.

The House impeachment hearings center on an allegation by Democrats that President Donald Trump withheld \$391 million in military aid to Ukraine, and used the funds as leverage to try to persuade the government in Kyiv to investigate Biden. The funds were released after the issue came to light last summer.

House Republicans have denounced the proceedings as politically motivated.

Ukraine has pushed for more U.S. military support as it fights Russia-backed separatists in the east of the country. Moscow's 2014 military intervention in Ukraine culminated in the annexation of the Crimean Peninsula, which Russia now regards as part of its territory.

"We do not and will not recognize Russia's purported annexation of Crimea," Pennington said during the ceremony in Odessa, adding that Washington will continue to provide security assistance to Ukraine "in the face of Russian aggression."

vandiver.john@stripes.com
twititer: @john_vandiver



U.S. Embassy in Ukraine

Acting U.S. ambassador to Ukraine Joseph Pennington speaks in the port of Odessa during the official transfer of two Island-class patrol boats to that country's navy on Wednesday.

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NATION

Source: 2nd US official heard call with Sondland

By **DESMOND BUTLER,**
MICHAEL BIESECKER
AND **MATTHEW LEE**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A second U.S. Embassy staffer in Kyiv overheard a key cellphone call between President Donald Trump and his ambassador to the European Union discussing the need for Ukrainian officials to pursue “investigations,” The Associated Press has learned.

The July 26 call between Trump and Gordon Sondland was first described during testimony Wednesday by William B. Taylor Jr., the acting U.S. ambassador to Ukraine. Taylor said one of his staffers



Sondland

overheard the call while Sondland was in a restaurant the day after Trump’s July 25 phone call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy that triggered the House impeachment inquiry.

The second diplomatic staffer also at the table was Suriya Jayanti, a foreign service officer based in Kyiv. A person briefed on what Jayanti overheard spoke to AP on condition of anonymity to discuss a sensitive matter currently under investigation.

Trump on Wednesday said he did not recall the July 26 call. “No, not at all, not even a little bit,” Trump said.

The staffer Taylor testified about is David Holmes, the political counselor at the embassy in Kyiv, according to an official familiar with the matter who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Holmes is scheduled to testify Friday before House investigators in a closed session.

Taylor was one of the first witnesses called Wednesday during the impeachment inquiry’s initial open hearing. He testified that his staffer could hear Trump on the phone asking Sondland about “the investigations.”

The accounts of Holmes and Jayanti could tie Trump closer to alleged efforts to hold up military aid to Ukraine in exchange for investigations into political rival Joe Biden and his son Hunter’s business dealings.

Current and former U.S. officials say Sondland’s use of a cellphone in a public place in Ukraine to speak with anyone in the U.S. government back home about sensitive matters, let alone the president, would be a significant breach of communications

security.

Jayanti is an attorney who joined the State Department in 2012 and was previously posted at the U.S. Embassy in Iraq. She has been stationed since September 2018 at the embassy in Kyiv where she helps coordinate U.S. business interests with the former Soviet republic’s energy industry.

Jayanti was in Washington last month and scheduled for a closed-door interview with impeachment investigators. But the deposition was canceled because of the funeral for former House Oversight Chair Elijah Cummings and has not yet been rescheduled.

Holmes, a career diplomat, joined the Foreign Service in 2002 and has served in Afghanistan, Colombia, India, Kosovo and Russia as well as on the White House National Security Council staff. He won an award for constructive dissent from the American Foreign Service Association in 2014 for complaining about problems that an alternate diplomatic channel had caused in South Asia and recommending organizational changes to the State Department’s bureaucratic structure for the region.

U.S. diplomats and other government employees are instructed not to use cellphones for sensitive official matters while traveling anywhere abroad but notably in countries known to be targeted for surveillance by intelligence agencies such as Russia, China and Israel.

Ukraine has long been among the countries of concern, particularly since a 2014 incident in which the U.S. accused Russian intelligence of eavesdropping on and then leaking a recording of a conversation between two senior U.S. officials in Kyiv that led to great embarrassment and strains between the U.S. and its European allies.

In that recording, then-Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs Victoria Nuland is heard telling former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Geoff Pyatt “f--- the EU,” because of the European Union’s slowness to respond to the political crisis in the country.

“That phone call was also a mistake the way it was conducted and it had huge implications for our foreign policy,” said Michael McPaul, a former U.S. ambassador to Russia who is now at Stanford University. “Particularly after that, anybody should understand how dangerous it is to make an unsecured call in Kyiv, or anywhere else for that matter.”



SUSAN WALSH/AP

The top U.S. diplomat in Ukraine, William Taylor, left, and career Foreign Service officer George Kent prepare to testify before the House Intelligence Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington on Wednesday.

Hearings: Dems pivot from ‘quid pro quo’

FROM FRONT PAGE

Sondland used his cellphone to call Trump from the restaurant, and the staff members could hear Trump on the phone asking about “the investigations,” Taylor took that to mean investigations into former Vice President Joe Biden and his son and the Burisma Group, the Ukrainian firm that had hired Hunter Biden as a director in 2014, he told lawmakers.

Sondland told the president that the Ukrainians were ready to move forward, and after the call one of Taylor’s staffers asked Sondland what Trump thought about Ukraine, he said.

“Ambassador Sondland responded that President Trump cares more about the investigations of Biden, which Giuliani was pressing for,” Taylor said in his opening statement.

“I take it the import of that is that he cares more about that than he does about Ukraine?” House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff asked Taylor.

“Yes, sir,” he responded. Taylor said he learned about the call Nov. 8 and didn’t know about it when he appeared for a closed-door deposition with House investigators conducting the impeachment inquiry.

Framing the narrative

The impeachment inquiry in many respects is about controlling the narrative. On Wednesday, Democrats seemed to begin to pivot, framing the actions of Trump as possible “bribery” and “extortion” rather than emphasizing a “quid pro quo.”

Schiff introduced the notion of bribery into the debate when he criticized acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney for saying that people concerned about Trump’s requests that Ukraine do political investigations should “get over it,” and that there is political influence in all foreign policy.

Schiff asked in his opening statement: “If we find that the President of the United States abused his power ... or if he sought to condition, coerce, extort or bribe an ally into conducting investigations to aid his reelection campaign and did so by withholding official acts — a White House meeting or hundreds of millions of dollars of needed military aid — must we simply ‘get over it?’”

A Democratic staff lawyer, Daniel Goldman, also talked of possible “extortion and bribery” — a gradual change in wording that could preview Democrats’ approach going forward.

Lofty language

The credibility of witnesses is in part a function of their biographies, and Democrats chose the Taylor and Kent for theirs.

One a Vietnam War veteran and West Point graduate, the other a career foreign service officer whose family has served the country for generations — nodded to the history of the moment with language both lofty and personal.

Their phrasing laid bare the stakes of the proceedings even as some Republicans sought to minimize them, and their intentional references to serving under presidents of both parties were aimed at preempting Republican attacks on them as political partisans.

That didn’t stop Rep. Devin Nunes, the top Republican on the House intelligence committee, from deriding the witnesses as being part of a smear campaign “star chamber” from within the civil service.

Taylor capped his opening statement with an ode to how Americans feel in their best moments about their country: “less concerned about what language we speak, what religion if any we practice, where our parents and grandparents came from; more concerned about building a new country.”

For his part, Kent singled out by first name and even nickname the impeachment witnesses who were born abroad, likening them to 20th-century national security policy: Henry Kissinger and Zbigniew Brzezinski, both immigrants.

“Masha, Alex and Fiona were born abroad before their families or they themselves personally chose to immigrate to the United States. They all made the professional choice to serve the United States as public officials, helping shape our national security policy, towards Russia in particular. And we and our national security are the better for it,” Kent said.

‘It was illogical’

Taylor was unsparring, and colorful, in his characterization of making military aid to Ukraine contingent on the country announcing investigations into the 2016 U.S. election and into Trump’s political rival, Biden.

He was presented with oversized images of a September text message exchange with two other envoys in which he said it would be “crazy” to not provide military assistance to the former Soviet republic to forestall domestic political gain. Those text messages were among the first documentary pieces of evidence to become public as part of the House impeachment inquiry, and established not only the possible contours of a quid pro quo but also laid bare diplomatic concerns about the Trump administration’s dealings with Ukraine.

Asked to elaborate, Taylor said, “It was counterproductive to all of what we had been trying to do. It was illogical, it could not be explained, it was crazy.”

Security assistance to Ukraine, he said, was not only critical to that country but also to America’s own national interests.

NATION

Shooting at Southern California high school

Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — One person was killed and at least four others were injured in a shooting at Saugus High School in Santa Clarita early Thursday, authorities said.

The shooting was reported at the campus at 21900 Centurion Way about 7:40 a.m., prompting a massive law enforcement response. Paramedics swarmed the campus, treating the wounded while authorities combed through nearby neighborhoods searching for a 15-year-old boy suspected in the shooting.

After roughly an hour, authorities said that the suspect, who is believed to be a student at the school, had been apprehended.

The teen, who was not immediately identified, is being treated at a hospital in unknown condition, said Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva.

Four people from the school were transported to Henry Mayo Hospital for treatment. One patient, a female, died at the hospital. Two male patients are in critical condition and one male is in good condition, according to Patrick Moody, a spokesman for the hospital. Their specific injuries and ages were not immediately provided.

The scene at the high school was chaotic with teenagers walking in a line behind armed law enforcement officials with their arms raised in the air immediately after the shooting.

ately after the shooting.

Some students remained locked in classrooms for more than an hour as authorities searched for the assailant. Eventually, they were led off the campus by deputies. Some were in tears. As they walked, one student asked aloud a question on the minds of many others across the state: "What kind of a world is this?"

Denzel Abesamis, a senior at Saugus, was driving to school and about to turn onto campus when he saw classmates running out and turned around. He called a friend who he knew was on campus. She told him there was a shooter and she was hiding in a classroom with five other



KTTV-TV/AP

People are lead out of Saugus High School after reports of a shooting on Thursday, in Santa Clarita, Calif.

students.

Michael Harrison, 26, said he first became aware of the shooting when his younger sister, a 17-year-old senior, texted him:

"there is a shooter, call 911."
"I can't even describe it, man," Harrison said with a panicked laugh. "Imagine getting that text."

Ex-Mass. governor Deval Patrick joins crowded 2020 presidential race

By JENNIFER EPSTEIN AND TYLER PAGER
Bloomberg

Former Massachusetts governor Deval Patrick joined the crowded 2020 Democratic presidential campaign Thursday amid growing concerns in the party that the existing field won't produce a nominee strong enough to beat President Donald

Trump.

Patrick, currently a managing director at Bain Capital, said in a video that he is running "to build a better, more sustainable, more inclusive American dream for the next generation."

He's expected to travel to New Hampshire either Thursday or Friday before the filing deadline to get on the primary ballot there, according to two Democrats famil-

iar with his plans.

"I admire and respect the candidates in the Democratic field. They bring a richness of ideas and experience and a depth of character that makes me proud to be a Democrat," Patrick said. But instead of the character of the candidates, this election "is about the character of the country."
"This time is about more than remov-

ing an unpopular and divisive leader, as important as that is, but about delivering instead for you," Patrick said.

Patrick, 63, would appeal to moderate voters who worry whether former Vice President Joe Biden is up to the task of facing Trump head-on, and worry that South Bend, Ind., Mayor Pete Buttigieg lacks the proper experience.



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NATION

Signs of the times

Washington in 1969 hosted largest anti-war protest in American history

By NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — While hundreds of thousands of demonstrators converged on Washington in November 1969 to show their growing disdain for America's involvement in Vietnam, Sgt. Grant Coates was bunkered in the Commerce Department with his fellow soldiers, peering out windows to catch glimpses at the activity outside.

Coates was a squad leader with the 6th Armored Cavalry Regiment out of Fort Meade, Md., one of the units assigned to riot duty during the weekend of Nov. 15, 1969, when about 500,000 people gathered in the capitol for what's believed to be the largest antiwar protest in U.S. history, called the Moratorium March.

The protests in Washington, and around the country, were building as the Vietnam War ground on. Students for a Democratic Society staged the first major antiwar rally in Washington on April 17, 1965, with about 20,000 people attending the orderly event.

Fast-forward to 1969, and the historic November rallies were part of a string of demonstrations that took place around the world, with groups from San Francisco to Boston and London petitioning for peace. Thousands of others involved in the antiwar movement joined affiliated protests in cities and on college campuses across the country, including a march through San Francisco that attracted 30,000.

The weekend of the march, Coates was one of the only service members on riot duty who had served in Vietnam.

Coates volunteered for the Army, having felt an obligation to the country. When he returned to the U.S. from Vietnam in September 1969, he was reassigned to Fort Meade.



AP photos

Above: The Moratorium Day peace parade passes along Pennsylvania Avenue from the Capitol building on Nov. 15, 1969. Below: Police release tear gas during the demonstration in Washington.



ward, police conservatively estimated 250,000 had joined the protest. Based on that number, newspapers dubbed it the "biggest peace demonstration in the nation's history."

Later, the estimate would climb to 500,000. The Washington protest was the focal point of the weekend.

About 1,000 protesters an hour moved from Arlington National Cemetery to the White House and then onto the Capitol "in a march against death," The Associated

Press reported at the time. Many of them carried placards with the names of service members who were killed in action in Vietnam, or the names of Vietnamese villages that had been destroyed.

Demonstrators heard speeches from antiwar politicians and performances by Arlo Guthrie, Pete Seeger and the group Peter, Paul and Mary.

Throughout it all, President Richard Nixon remained in the White House.

"The Nixon administration

reaffirmed that its Vietnam policy would not be determined by marchers on the streets and asserted its course continues to have the support of most Americans," the AP reported.

Coates also remained inside — his squad was never called into action. The demonstration was mostly peaceful except for a small section of the crowd that violently protested near the Justice Department on the evening of Nov. 15.

Demonstrators threw rocks, bottles and paint bombs, smashing windows and splattering the building with red paint. UPI described the protesters as "yippies" and "shouting, paint-throwing extremists." The clash resulted in police using tear gas on the crowd.

From the windows of the Commerce Department, Coates intermittently spotted clouds of tear gas. His squad slept in their masks because gas had filtered into the building through the air-conditioning system, he said.



A look at 1969: Hamburger Hill, Jimi Hendrix and 'peace with honor'
stripes.com/vietnam50

'Don't yell it at me'

Early Nov. 16, when most of the crowd had dispersed, his squad left the Commerce Department.

"I remember it was a clear day the morning we left," Coates said. "We could still feel the tear gas. Anytime there was a breeze, the crystals would blow off buildings and streets, burning our eyes."

Coates was 20 at the time, fresh off a combat tour in Vietnam, where he was part of the 76th Infantry Detach Combat Tracker Team. With a dog in tow, the team was tasked with establishing contact with enemy combatants.

Other service members on riot duty did not have combat experience, some were part of Special Services, the entertainment branch of the military that included bands and baseball teams.

In their off-time, many wore peace paraphernalia and aligned themselves with the antiwar movement, Coates said. Before rolling into Washington, they had to be trained not to break ranks.

"I remember a lot of them saying, 'I agree with the demonstrators. I'm not for the war, and I don't want to go to Vietnam,'" Coates said.

"On the ride down, I told my squad, 'You got to remember what you're doing and protect yourself. These people don't care that you like them. They see you as the government.'"

Coates witnessed the change in his squad as they traveled past protesters, some of whom shouted at them and threw things at their vehicles.

"They got hit abruptly with counterultra in their face, and they didn't have much patience after that," Coates recalled. "After about an hour on the road, these guys were yelling stuff out the window back at them."

Reflecting on the attitudes at the time, Coates said people hadn't yet separated individual service members from the government.

"Service members represented the government, and the agitation, the irritation — it was taken out on the service member," Coates said. "My feeling was, carry your sign. Yell what you want, but don't yell it at me. I'm not the one making the decisions."

wentling.nikki@stripes.com
Twitter: @nikkiwentling

Asleep in combat boots

Fifty years later, Coates, now 70 and living in upstate New York, recalls that Moratorium March weekend in detail. His squad remained inside the Commerce Department, adjacent to the National Mall, waiting to be called to help local police if the protest got violent.

"We had observers on the tops of the buildings reporting in on what they were seeing," Coates said. "Those of us not on the roof were stretched out in the hallways, sleeping in our combat boots with our gear next to us so we could be ready to get into formation."

A security force of 40,000 police and troops guarded Washington that weekend, and almost all of them — like Coates — were hidden from public view. United Press International reported.

Police were expecting a crowd of 100,000 for the demonstration. It was planned by the Vietnam Moratorium Committee, which had held other massive demonstrations against America's involvement in Vietnam. After-

NATION

Trump voices optimism after meeting with Turkish leader

By DAVID NAKAMURA, KAREN DEYOUNG AND SEUNG MIN KIM
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump expressed optimism that the United States and Turkey are on their way to resolving the many differences between them but provided few details at a news conference with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan after a day of White House meetings.

Trump said a tentative ceasefire is holding in northeastern Syria and thanked Erdogan for "his cooperation." He said the two leaders "made tremendous progress" toward more than quadrupling bilateral trade — to \$100 billion — and "hopefully will be able to resolve" a conflict over Turkey's purchase of a sophisticated Russian missile defense system.

Calling Turkey a "great NATO ally and a strategic partner of the United States around the world," Trump described their talks as "wonderful and productive."

He said he was paying no atten-

tion to House hearings in the impeachment inquiry over Ukraine that was taking place at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue.

"I hear it's a joke," he said. "I haven't watched for one minute, because I've been with the president, which is much more important as far as I'm concerned."

The most immediate tensions surrounding Erdogan's visit came with Turkey's military offensive against Kurdish fighters in neighboring Syria, begun last month after Trump announced he would withdraw U.S. troops from the area. The withdrawal engendered sharp bipartisan criticism on Capitol Hill, where lawmakers of both parties accused Trump of abandoning the U.S.-allied Kurds, who had borne the brunt of the fight against Islamic State in Syria.

Trump rebuffed lawmakers who had called on him to cancel the invitation, saying Erdogan has lived up to an Oct. 17 agreement negotiated with Vice President Mike Pence to limit Turkey's incursion into Syria and allow it to create a long-coveted buffer

zone at least 20 miles deep inside Syria.

Widespread reports of war crimes committed by Turkey-controlled Syrian militias that are part of the invasion force are being investigated by the Pentagon. At the same time, Turkey's military operations have displaced an estimated 100,000 people from their homes in northern Syria, according to the United Nations.

Erdogan shared Trump's assessment of their talks as productive, but he also took the news conference as an opportunity to list outstanding grievances. Chief among them is the U.S. failure to extradite Turkish cleric Fethullah Gulen, a permanent U.S. resident, who Erdogan's government claims masterminded a 2016 coup attempt.

So far, the Justice Department has deemed evidence Turkey has submitted for Gulen's extradition to be insufficient.

"We are not getting the best of news out of the United States," Erdogan said.

But he had brought additional



EVAN VUCCI/AP

President Donald Trump shakes hands with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan after a news conference in the East Room of the White House on Wednesday.

information with him, he said, and "in light of these documents, I think they will appreciate the situation."

Erdogan also criticized the House's passage last month of a resolution officially designating the 1915 Turkish slaughter of an estimated 1.5 million Armenians as genocide, something Turkey had strenuously and unsuccessfully lobbied against for years.

At the news conference, Trump said, "the U.S.-Turkey alliance can be a powerful alliance for security and stability, not only in the Middle East but beyond."

That alliance has been sorely tested in recent years. In Syria,

Turkey considers the Kurdish fighters allied with the United States to be terrorists who threaten Turkey's security.

Sanctions on Turkey were mandated under U.S. law when it purchased Russia's S-400 missile defense system, although Trump has delayed imposing them.

Trump said Wednesday that the S-400 issue "creates some very serious challenges for us" but that "we've asked our secretary of state and ministry of foreign affairs and our respective national security advisers to immediately work on resolving" the problem.

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- 20 Nov 2019 10 AM - 2 PM**
Clay Kaserne, Wiesbaden, GE The Community Activity Center "CAC"
- 21 Nov 2019 10 AM - 5 PM**
Patch Barracks, Vaihingen, GE Swabian Center Bldg 2505 - Sherman Room
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NATION

Teen activist hitches ride to Europe on catamaran

By BEN FINLEY
Associated Press

HAMPTON, Va. — Swedish teen climate activist Greta Thunberg hitched a renewable-energy ride back to Europe on Wednesday, sailing into the Atlantic on a trip she hopes will get her to Madrid in time for another climate conference and then home for the holidays.

Thunberg, 16, tweeted as she took to the sea on the 48-foot catamaran of an Australian family that answered her urgent appeal for a low-carbon way back home after the United Nations climate meeting she had planned to attend in Chile was moved due to political unrest there. She encouraged followers to track their journey online.

Before departing, Thunberg reflected on her time in North America during an Associated Press interview in the cabin of the catamaran. Some people in power, she said, simply lack a sense of urgency when it comes to global warming.

"The situation in Canada and the U.S. is basically the same as to where I come from. It is the same arguments that are being used to delay action. It is the same methods that are being used to mislead people," she said Tuesday as they prepared to leave Hampton, Va., near the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay.

After her work in Spain, Thunberg hopes she'll make it home for Christmas and to be with her family and her dogs, Moses and Roxy, a golden retriever and a

Labrador.

"Of course I miss my family and dogs, and especially to have one place to stay, to not travel all the time," she said. "Just to have routines."

The boat taking her across the Atlantic, named La Vagabonde, leaves little to no carbon footprint when its sails are in use, counting on solar panels and hydro-generators for electricity. It also has a toilet, unlike the boat on which she sailed from the United Kingdom to New York in August. That one had only a bucket.

"There are countless people around the world who don't have access to a toilet," she said about the upgrade. "It's not that important. But it's nice to have."

Her hosts are Riley Whitelut and Elayna Carausu, an Austri-



ROB OSTERMAIER, THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT/AP

Swedish teen climate activist Greta Thunberg waves from the catamaran La Vagabonde as it departs Hampton, Va., on Wednesday.

lian couple who travel the world with their 11-month-old baby, Lenny. The family, which has a large online following, responded to Thunberg's call on social media for a carbon-free ride to Europe. An expert sailor, Nikki Henderson, also is coming along.

The trip could take two to four weeks in conditions that could be challenging. November is considered off-season for sailing across

the Atlantic. As Thunberg spoke Tuesday, the temperature had dipped into the 30s, with sleet turning to light snow.

But Thunberg, who refuses to fly because of the carbon price of plane travel, didn't seem bothered.

"I'm looking forward to it, just to be able to get away and recap everything and to just be disconnected," she said.

Utility to pay \$360M for major Southern California wildfires

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Southern California Edison has agreed to pay \$360 million to local governments to settle lawsuits over deadly wildfires sparked by its equipment during the last two years, including one blamed for a mudslide that killed more than 20 people, the utility and attorneys announced Wednesday.

The sum will reimburse counties, cities and other public agencies for firefighting costs and repairing damage from two of the region's worst blazes. The figure will not fully repay taxpayer costs, but it will help pay the bills to rebuild roads, other infrastructure and clean up debris, among other things, said attorney John Fiske, who represents local governments.

"While this is not 100%, it's not pennies on the dollar," Fiske said. "A lot of these communities ... were hit very hard. In the aftermath of these wildfires, all sorts of public resources and taxpayer resources are lost."

The group of nearly two dozen public entities that includes small fire, water and park agencies had sued Southern California Edison for negligence and improper operation of power lines and equipment, failure to clear vegetation around electric lines and for not shutting down circuits when high winds created fire danger.

SoCal Edison said it admitted no wrongdoing or liability in the settlement.

Utilities have increasingly come under fire for causing devastating wildland blazes in recent years. Tinder-dry vegetation has blown into power lines, sparking fires fanned by high winds across



MIKE ELIASON, SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT/AP

A Santa Barbara County Fire Search dog looks for victims in Montecito, Calif., in January 2018. The fire was among those for which Southern California Edison has agreed to a settlement to cover costs from fires sparked by its equipment.

a landscape desiccated from drought and climate change.

The Thomas Fire that broke out in dry brush in Ventura County was sparked when the utility's power lines slapped together in high winds on Dec. 4, 2017, investigators said. Two people were killed and 440 square miles were burned.

The burn zone included a mountainside above the seaside city of Montecito, where a deluge a month later in fire-scarred terrain triggered a devastating mudslide that killed at least 21 people. Two others were never found.

The Woolsey Fire started with the company's equipment a year ago just outside Los Angeles and quickly spread to the coast, jumping a highway and crossing the Santa Monica Mountains into Malibu, according to the compa-

ny's recent quarterly earnings report. It destroyed more than 1,600 homes and killed three people.

The settlement does not include private lawsuits for deaths and homes destroyed. The settlement is the most comprehensive in state history because it involves 23 public entities, Fiske said.

But the overall figure is dwarfed by the \$1 billion settlement Pacific Gas & Electric reached with local governments in Northern California for fires its equipment caused in recent years. The damage from those fires, however, was much greater, with more than 20,000 homes destroyed.

The payout will be split among the counties of Santa Barbara, Ventura and Los Angeles and includes the cities of Santa Barbara, Malibu, Calabasas, Thousand Oaks and Westlake Village.

Most distant space object seen up close gets a name

The Washington Post

The bundle of ice and rock was discovered using a telescope operated in Maryland. It was studied up close by a spacecraft built in the same state. So when NASA scientists had to choose an official name for the most distant object they had ever explored, they borrowed a word from the original inhabitants of this region: Arrokoth, the Powhatan/Algonquian term for "sky."

"Bestowing the name Arrokoth signifies the strength and endurance of the indigenous Algonquian people of the Chesapeake region," Lori Glaze, the director of NASA's planetary science division, said at a naming ceremony Wednesday. "Their heritage continues to be a guiding light for all who search for meaning and understanding of the origins of the universe and the celestial connection of humanity."

The name also replaces a nickname that has an unintended white supremacist connection: "Ultima Thule," a medieval term used to describe the lands beyond the edges of maps. Nazis used it to refer to a mythical homeland of the Aryan people, as was reported in Newsweek, and it remains in use by modern far-right groups.

Arrokoth is a Kuiper Belt object, one of millions of icy bodies that exist beyond the orbit of Neptune. As a frozen fragment of the solar system, it appeared as the earliest days of the solar system.

It was discovered in 2014 with the Hubble Space Telescope, which is operated by the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore. Viewed through Hubble's lens, it appeared as little more than a faint pixel of light in

area of black.

But just after midnight on New Year's Day, when NASA's New Horizons spacecraft swooshed past the object, Arrokoth became the most distant object humans have seen up close. Images streamed down to the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory in Laurel, Md., revealed a reddish, snowman-shape world.

Alan Stern, the principal investigator for the New Horizons mission, initially defended the Ultima Thule nickname. "Just because some bad guys once liked that term, we're not going to let them hijack it," he told reporters shortly after the January flyby.

But new names for space objects have to be approved by the International Astronomical Union, which has strict guidelines for identifying objects in the sky. Ultimately, NASA opted to put forward the name "Arrokoth," which honors the Native American nation whose land the discovery was made on.

The space agency approached artist Phoebe Farris, a professor emeritus at Purdue University who is of Powhatan/Pamunkey heritage, to seek permission from Powhatan elders to use "Arrokoth." The tribe endorsed the choice and it was accepted by the IAU's Minor Planet Center last week.

Farris presented the new name at the ceremony at NASA headquarters Tuesday.

"Since we are the original inhabitants of what is now called North America, known to us as Turtle Island, it is fitting that 'discoveries' over our skies, on our land and in our waters should be given indigenous names," she told the AFP news service.

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NATION

New program aims to combat US gun violence

By ADRIAN SAINZ
AND MICHAEL BALSAMO
Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Attorney General William Barr announced a new initiative Wednesday that would better enforce the U.S. gun background check system, coordinate state and federal gun cases and ensure prosecutors quickly update databases to show when a defendant can't possess a firearm because of mental health issues.

The push, known as Project Guardian, was unveiled at a news conference in Memphis, Tenn., alongside officials from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

As part of the program, U.S. prosecutors will coordinate with state and local law enforcement officials to consider potential federal charges when a suspect is arrested for weapons possession, is believed to have used a gun to commit a violent crime or drug-trafficking offense or is suspected of being a violent gang member.

"Gun crime remains a pervasive problem in too many communities across America," Barr said in a statement.

The program "will strengthen our efforts to reduce gun violence by allowing the federal government and our state and local partners to better target offenders who use guns in crimes and those who try to buy guns illegally," Barr said.

During the news conference, Barr said discussions about any new legislation tied to the project have been sidetracked due to the impeachment process on Capitol Hill. He said Congress has been asked for more resources and using more ATF agents, including

marshals.

"We are going forward with all the operational steps that we can take that do not require legislative action," Barr said.

The initiative requires agents in charge of ATF offices across the country to either create new guidelines or review the protocols already in place to bring federal charges against people who lie in order to obtain a gun from a firearms dealer.

Prosecutors will particularly focus on offenders who have violent backgrounds, are gang members or who have faced domestic violence charges.

U.S. attorney's offices would also be required to quickly input information about people who can't own guns for mental health reason into federal databases. The attorney general is also encouraging U.S. attorneys across the country to adopt programs that could help disrupt potential threats and consider recommending court-ordered mental health treatment, in some cases, for defendants found to be ineligible to own firearms for mental health reasons.

The federal government has come under scrutiny in recent years for failing to prevent some mass shooters from buying guns because of lapses in the background check system.

In 2018, there were more than 26 million background checks conducted and fewer than 100,000 people failed. The vast majority were for a criminal conviction and just over 6,000 were rejected for a mental health issue.



MARK LAMBIE, THE EL PASO TIMES/AP

An employee crosses into the crime scene after a shooting in August at a Walmart in El Paso, Texas. The store has hired off-duty police officers to provide security after its scheduled reopening on Thursday.

Walmart hires off-duty officers ahead of El Paso reopening

By CEDAR ATTANASIO
Associated Press

EL PASO, Texas — Walmart has quietly hired off-duty police officers at its stores in El Paso, where a gunman police say targeted Mexicans opened fire in a store in August and killed 22 people.

Walmart planned Thursday to reopen the store where the attack happened and amid ongoing lawsuits over safety. Walmart didn't have a guard in the store the day of the mass shooting.

The reopening was to happen unceremoniously, Walmart spokeswoman Delia Garcia said, and will follow a brief meeting with employees. She declined to comment on security measures.

Police say Patrick Crusius drove more than 10 hours from his grandparents' house where he lived in a Dallas suburb to carry out the attack. Crusius, 21, has pleaded not guilty. More than 3,000 people from largely Latino El Paso and neighboring Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, were at the store when the attack happened.

"There was a time that Walmart hired off-duty officers and for some time prior (to) August 3rd that ceased," El Paso police spokesman Enrique Carrillo said in an email. He declined to provide more details.

When El Paso Police Chief Greg Allen first revealed the phasing out of officers in a city council

meeting, council members discussed possibly mandating that off-duty officers be hired at large stores. The idea hadn't been implemented.

Instead, Walmart quietly started hiring off-duty officers at their stores across the city, from Supercenters to "neighborhood markets," the retail giant's smaller grocery stores.

"We're covering Walgreens; we're also covering Sam's (Club)," said El Paso police union president Ron Martin. "Even the neighborhood Walgreens are being covered. Some of them are being covered by sheriff's deputies; some of them are being covered by our guys. I mean, I have seen some constables working it."

Martin said it's unclear how long Walmart will continue to staff every location.

Pay for the off-duty officers is about \$50 per hour depending on their rank, or about double their hourly wage.

Walmart declined to discuss the hiring of police officers, the costs, or if they are taking similar steps in other cities.

"We typically do not share our security measures publicly because it could make them less effective, but they may include hiring additional security, adding cameras in store and using 'lot cops' in the parking lot," said Walmart spokeswoman Delia Garcia, referring to security cameras placed in parking lots.

Probe offers no clear answers for Virginia mass shooting

Associated Press

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — A monthlong independent probe into the Virginia Beach mass shooting has concluded, but it offers no clear answers as to why a city engineer killed 12 people in his workplace, according to findings released Wednesday.

The investigation, conducted by Chicago-based security company Hillard Heintze, found no warning signs by the shooter that could have helped the city prevent the May 31 tragedy.

The firm also said that the long-time city employee did not work in a systematically toxic workplace, which some people in this coastal

city of nearly 500,000 had proposed as a possible factor.

What the investigation did reveal was a man who experienced the kind of pressures and life challenges that many people do. DeWayne Craddock, 40, had gone through a divorce and was having trouble at work. He wrote emails on his work computer that went unsent but claimed he was unjustly disciplined.

But independent investigators were at a loss to explain how such "stressors" could have translated into violence.

"The information is just not there," the independent security firm's CEO, Arnette Heintze, told

reporters after presenting a 262-page report to Virginia Beach's City Council.

"What we can tell you is that in 2016 his life started changing," Heintze said. "We can tell you that he started acquiring firearms, body armor and silencers. He starts visiting (newspaper websites that are reporting) on mass shootings."

Craddock had worked in the city's public utilities department. He used two semi-automatic handguns, a silencer and extended ammunition magazines to kill 11 of his co-workers and a contractor who had stopped at the city's sprawling municipal com-

plex to get a permit.

Craddock had submitted his resignation earlier in the day, citing "personal reasons."

The independent probe's report will likely do little for family members of the victims who have been grasping for answers and critical of the investigations.

A police investigation into the massacre is ongoing. An update in September from police investigators did not offer a clear motive.

Jason Nixon, whose wife, Kate Nixon, was killed by Craddock, said the independent investigation was a "dog and pony show" that "regurgitated" information provided by Virginia Beach po-

lice. He said no real independent digging was done.

"Family members are beyond upset," he said.

Nixon said his wife wrote up Craddock for having a poor attitude. But he said such details were glossed over.

Nixon said he plans to ask state police to conduct an investigation.

Meanwhile, the probe offered several recommendations to the city. They included suggestions that Virginia Beach improve its workplace violence prevention programs, human resources functions and mass-notification alerting systems.

WORLD

Israel-Islamic Jihad truce intact despite barrage of rockets



KHAIL HAMRA/AP

The bodies of seven members of the Abu Malhous family, who were killed in an overnight Israeli missile strike, lay on the floor during their funeral in Deir al-Balah, central Gaza Strip, on Thursday.

By **FARES AKRAM**
AND **TIA GOLDENBERG**
Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — A cease-fire between Israel and Gaza's Islamic Jihad militant group appeared to be holding Thursday despite an earlier barrage of rocket fire that briefly disrupted a truce to end two days of intense fighting that killed at least 34 Palestinians, including three women and eight children, and paralyzed parts of Israel.

Before the truce was announced, a pre-dawn Israeli airstrike killed eight members of the same family in Gaza. Among them were five children, the youngest being 7 years old.

It was the deadliest single attack since a bruising 2014 war between Israel and Hamas, the larger militant group that rules Gaza. Islamic Jihad claimed no link to the family and the Israeli military offered no details on the strike.

Israel had hailed the Gaza operation as a victory, defending its policy of targeting militants in their homes despite civilian deaths, and vowed to continue the tactic. Islamic Jihad said it had succeeded in getting Israel to agree to a cease-fire based on several demands, including a halt to Israeli targeted killings of the group's leaders.

Islamic Jihad spokesman Musab al-Berim said the Egyptian-brokered deal went into effect at 5:30 a.m. An Israeli military spokesman tweeted that the Gaza operation "is over." Some restrictions were lifted on residents of southern Israel, and traffic returned to the streets of the Palestinian coastal territory.

But after hours of calm, a barrage of five rockets blasted out of the territory, setting off air raid sirens in southern Israel and testing the fragile truce. No group claimed responsibility for the new wave of rockets, but Israel

did not immediately respond, an indication the cease-fire deal was intact.

The fighting first erupted early Tuesday after Israel killed a senior commander of the Iran-backed militant group who was said to be behind a string of rocket attacks and who Israel said was believed to be planning a cross-border infiltration.

The rare targeted killing by Israel sparked the heaviest fighting with Gaza militants since May. Islamic Jihad fired some 450 rockets toward Israel, while Israel responded with scores of airstrikes.

However, Gaza's ruling Hamas stayed out of the latest escalation — an indication it would be brief.

Israel typically does not publicly acknowledge deals with militant groups, and on Thursday

officials said the only unwritten agreement was that Israel would hold fire so long as Islamic Jihad did. Military spokesmen listed a series of accomplishments after the two-day spasm of violence, including the killing of some 25 militants in targeted strikes.

Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz said the policy had "proved itself" and would continue.

"Everyone who was a top military official, who was set to carry out and was involved in terror or rocket firing against Israel was eliminated," he told Israeli Army Radio. "And we intend to continue with this."

Israeli Defense Minister Naftali Bennett warned Gaza militants they were not safe anywhere, saying, "A terrorist who tries to harm Israeli citizens will not be able to sleep soundly."

Election results held up again in Afghanistan

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — An Afghan official says the results of the country's presidential election held nearly two months ago are being delayed once again.

A spokesman for the Independent Election Commission, Zabi Sadat, didn't explain the new postponement. The results were supposed to be announced Thursday in Kabul.

There was no new date set for the results.

The Sept. 28 election has been mired in controversy. Both President Ashraf Ghani and his chief executive and co-head in the current unity government, Abdullah Abdullah, were running for president.

Abdullah last week said he was withdrawing his election observers from the ballot counting process. Sadat, the commission spokesman, said vote recounts were immediately suspended after Abdullah withdrew his observers.

Sadat said the commission is holding emergency meetings to find a way out of the impasse.

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WORLD

Hong Kong police condemn protests, deny curfew plan

Associated Press

HONG KONG — Hong Kong police warned protesters on Thursday that they were moving “one step closer to terrorism” by sinking the city into chaos as riot squads skirmished with militant students at major universities.

Police spokesman Tse Chun-chung denied his department had been asked to enforce a possible curfew this weekend. A Chinese state media outlet later removed its tweet saying authorities were considering a weekend curfew that cited unidentified sources.

“We are aware of the relevant reports circulating online,” Tse said at a daily briefing, referring to the report as “false.” He said the authority to order a curfew

lies with Hong Kong’s leader, Chief Executive Carrie Lam, and “that’s why police are not in a position to comment.”

“The force is certainly capable and determined to control Hong Kong’s social unrest at the moment. We welcome any new measure that can help us to achieve the goal of restoring the public safety and order in Hong Kong,” Tse added.

In unusually harsh language, he said students were turning university campuses into “weapons factories” and a “hotbed” of crime.

“Their acts are another step closer to terrorism,” Tse said, warning of a major disaster if gasoline bombs stored on cam-

pus were to catch fire.

He said violence that broke out this week at Chinese University of Hong Kong is spreading to other campuses “like a cancer cell,” mentioning specifically Hong Kong University and Baptist University.

“It’s time to wake up. No society can tolerate this much senseless violence,” he said.

With no end to the protests in sight, the beleaguered police force is appointing a group of prison guards as special constables.

Up to 100 officers from the Correctional Services Department who are already familiar with anti-riot equipment will be given additional training and deployed mainly to guard government



NO HAN GUAN/AP

Pro-democracy protesters set fire to the toll gates to the Cross-Harbour Tunnel with Molotov cocktails in Hong Kong on Thursday.

premises.

“The ongoing riots over the past few months, with their massive scale, simultaneous occurrence in various districts and grave severity of violence, make it necessary to strengthen the support for the police’s front-line officers,” a statement from the police spokesman’s office said.

Residents endured a fourth day of traffic snarls and mass

transit disruptions as protesters closed some main roads and rail networks.

Protesters have hurled gasoline bombs and thrown objects off bridges onto roads below during clashes at campuses this week. The Chinese University of Hong Kong suspended classes for the rest of the year, and others asked students to switch to online learning.

Brexit Party rejects tactical voting pact with ruling Conservatives

By DANICA KIRKA

Associated Press

LONDON — Britain’s Brexit Party has rejected an electoral pact with the ruling Conservatives, saying it will field 500 candidates in next month’s election to force Prime Minister Boris Johnson to deliver on promises of a clean break with the European Union.

Brexit Party leader Nigel Farage said Thursday the party had to contest the seats to keep pressure on Johnson, rebuffing Conservative arguments that doing so risks splitting the pro-Brexit vote and helping parties that want to remain in the EU. His comments came on the final day for candidates to register for the Dec. 12 election.

“What we’ve got so far in this campaign is for Boris to promise to change direction. What we now have to do is to hold him to account to make sure we get a proper Brexit, and that’s my job,” Farage said.

Britain is holding a national election on Dec. 12 because Johnson wants to secure a majority so he can take the U.K. out of the bloc by the next Brexit deadline of Jan. 31. All 650 seats in the House

of Commons are up for grabs.

Johnson has reached a Brexit deal with the EU but has not persuaded enough British lawmakers to pass it. The single-issue Brexit Party, meanwhile, prefers to leave the EU without a deal.

The Brexit Party earlier this week agreed not to run candidates for 317 parliamentary seats currently held by Conservative lawmakers after Johnson pledged there would be no further extension of the Brexit deadline. But the Daily Telegraph reported Thursday that Farage rejected a last-minute strategic offer from the Conservatives to put up only token opposition in 40 key seats if the Brexit Party would stand aside in other constituencies.

Currently, the Conservatives have 298 seats and the opposition Labour Party has 243. Analysts say to get a majority the Conservatives need to flip Labour seats in the north and east.

Farage noted that “there are very clearly seats in which we are the lead challenger and there are other seats in which they (the Conservatives) are the lead challenger to Labour.”

“We could have done a deal on that basis, but the priority for

the Conservative Party, they do not want the Brexit Party to get seats in Parliament,” Farage said. “They’d rather risk not winning

the election than having a Leave majority, a Leave alliance.”

The Conservatives fear that voter support for Farage’s party

could prevent them from winning some closely contested seats, robbing the party of an overall majority in the House of Commons.

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Pope calls on tech firms to keep porn from kids

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis is demanding that Facebook, Apple, Google and other tech companies urgently take measures to remove child porn from the web and to prevent children from accessing pornography online.

Francis told a Vatican conference of religious leaders and high-tech representatives Thursday that it’s no longer acceptable to merely follow the law in monitoring online content since technol-

ogy is fast outpacing regulation.

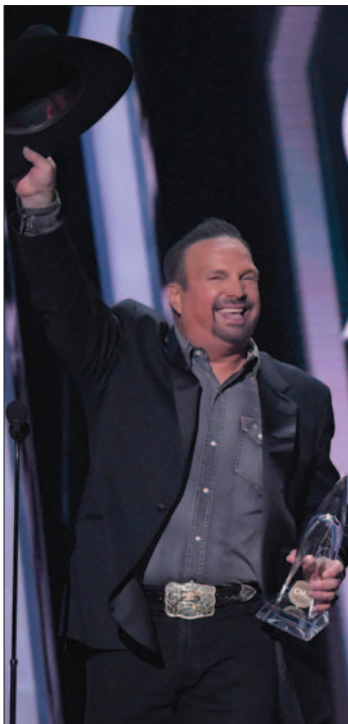
Rather, he demanded that companies themselves assume a moral responsibility to protect young people from what he said were the ruinous effects of pornography on their emotional and sexual development.

He said, “There is a need to ensure that investors and managers remain accountable so that the good of minors and society is not sacrificed to profit.”

Francis was addressing participants at the conference “Promoting Digital Child Dignity.”

From The Associated Press

FACES



PHOTOS BY MARK J. TERRILL/AP

Garth Brooks accepts the award for entertainer of the year Wednesday at the CMA Awards in Nashville.

Brooks crashes ladies' night

CMAs honor female acts as entertainer of the year goes to man

BY MESFIN FEKAUD
Associated Press

The Country Music Association Awards almost fully honored and highlighted the women of country music—whose songs have been heavily dismissed on country radio over the years—until two words were uttered when they named its entertainer of the year: Garth Brooks.

Wednesday night's show kicked off with a performance featuring country female acts across generations, included three female hosts and had Maren Morris as its top nominee. But in the final moments, Brooks won the top prize over Carrie Underwood, who many had hoped would be the first female to win entertainer of the year since 2011.

Brooks did highlight female acts during his acceptance speech at the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville. "If they gave this award for this show tonight, I'd have to give it to Reba McEntire's performance," Brooks said, while also praising Kelsea Ballerini and Luke Combs, who won two honors.

All eyes seemed to be on Underwood, who had a successful year with her album "Cry Pretty" and an all-female tour, for an entertainer of the year. The last woman to win the prize was Taylor Swift, and Underwood was this year's sole female nominee.

Underwood hosted the show alongside McEntire and Dolly Parton, and though she didn't win any awards, Underwood did win over the audience: She was a vocal beast, hitting all the right notes and more during a smoky performance of "Drinking Alone."



Kacey Musgraves, left, and Willie Nelson perform "The Rainbow Connection" at the CMAs.

Morris also marked the big night for female country acts by taking home album of the year for "GIRL." The award also went to her producer busbee, who died in September at age 43 from brain cancer.

"I would be really remiss if I didn't mention a huge facet of why this album sounds the way it does, and we miss him so dearly," a teary-eyed Morris said onstage.

Kacey Musgraves, who won four Grammys this year, picked up female vocalist of the year and music video of the year for "Rainbow."

"The female creative spirit, the female energy is really needed right now. It's really important, and I feel like it's something that Earth needs. So whether it's me that's up here or any of the other women in this category, I just think that it's a beautiful thing, and I'm very appreciative," Musgraves said.

Other women who won Wednesday included Ashley McBryde, who won new artist of the year, and fiddle player Jenee Fflewel, named musician of the year.

Musgraves, joined by Willie Nelson, gave a wonderful performance of "Rainbow Connection" from "The Muppet Movie," even weaving in some of her own song "Rainbow."

Morris performed "GIRL," which was also nominated for single of the year and song of the year, but it lost in both categories (the winners were Blake Shelton's "God's Country" and Combs' "Beautiful Crazy"). Morris also lost musical event of the year to Lil Nas X and Billy Ray Cyrus' ubiquitous No. 1 hit, "Old Town Road."

Combs, who has dominated the country charts and streaming services with his songs and albums, also won male vocalist of the year, beating out Stapleton, Keith Urban, Thomas Rhett and Dierks Bentley.

"I remember sitting on my parents' porch as a little kid and watching Vince Gill win this same award," he said. "Country music means everything to me."

The three-hour CMA Awards kicked off with a dose of girl power: Parton, Underwood and McEntire were joined by Tanya Tucker, Terri Clark, Crystal Gayle, Sara Evans, Little Big Town's Karen Fairchild and Kimberly Schlapman, Maren Morris, Brandi Carlile, Gretchen Wilson, Martina McBride and more, singing classic country songs across two stages.

After the performance Parton asked, "What do you call three women hosting the CMAs?"

"Your lucky night," she screamed. Kris Kristofferson was also honored with a performance featuring Sheryl Crow, Bentley, John Osborne and Chris Janson.

Disney Plus warns of films' 'outdated cultural depictions'

From wire reports

Disney's much-anticipated streaming service has tacked warnings onto the beginnings of some movies indicating that they might include racist or otherwise offensive elements—a move that experts say begins to address the problem but fails to go far enough. A message that airs before classic films including "Dumbo" and "Peter Pan" on Disney Plus says the movie is shown as it originally was made and "may contain outdated cultural depictions."

The decision to attach this message to some animated films was met with both praise from people who viewed it as an accountability measure and criticism from those who thought its wording was dismissive. The mixed response, experts say, highlights the fact that Disney has just begun to take responsibility for the problematic representations.

"It really feels like a first step," said Michael Baran, a senior partner at the Illinois-based diversity and inclusion consulting firm INQUEST Consulting. "I think that they could be so much more forceful in not only what they are saying, in the warning, but also in what they're doing."

Disney frequently has come under fire for characters that promote racist stereotypes. The crows in "Dumbo," released in 1941, encapsulate stereotypes of African Americans. One of the birds was named "Jim Crow."

In 1967's "The Jungle Book," critics say

the monkeys portray black people as foolish and criminal. The churlish hyenas in "The Lion King," released in 1994, could represent racial minorities who live on the wrong side of the tracks. The list of movies with elements criticized as racist continues.

Disney Plus' warning that elements of certain films may be "outdated" is an apologetic and passive way of acknowledging society's cultural dialog about racism and diversity, and that some movies are bound to be criticized, said Shilpa Dave, a professor of media studies and American studies at the University of Virginia.

"They are accounting for the fact that, 'yes, this is the company that we once were, but we're moving in a new direction,'" Dave said. "It's a safe way of saying they understand the moment in which their company exists and in which we are in now."

Others have criticized Disney Plus for not being direct about what the content warnings are referring to, especially when compared with language used by the entertainment company Warner Bros. Entertainment before some of its Looney Tunes cartoons. "The cartoons you are about to see are products of their time," the Warner Bros. disclaimer reads. "They may depict some of the ethnic and racial prejudices that were commonplace in American society. These depictions were wrong then and are wrong today."

Baran said he would like to see Disney use more specific language in its warnings. Dis-

ney could include discussion questions online to accompany the movies, Baran said.

Some films that reportedly do not contain warning notices, like "Aladdin," should have been added, Baran said, and the warnings should also apply to films with problematic representations of gender and sexuality.

Representatives for Walt Disney Co. did not respond to a request for comment on why the company decided to add content warnings and how their language was chosen.

Other news

■ Actor Charles Levin, who played numerous roles on television comedies such as "Seinfeld" and "Night Court," has been identified as the man whose body was found last summer in an Oregon ravine, authorities said. The death was ruled accidental, the Oregonian/OregonLive reported Tuesday. Jesse Levin reported his father missing on July 8, police said. The 70-year-old actor, who had been living in Grants Pass, Ore., was last seen June 27.

■ Rapper Kodak Black was sentenced Wednesday to more than three years in federal prison after pleading guilty to weapons charges stemming from his arrest just before a scheduled concert performance in May. Black, 22, admitted in August that he falsified information on federal forms to buy four firearms from a Miami-area gun shop. Black also faces drug, weapons and sexual assault charges in other states that remain pending.



AP

Bautista guardian of abandoned pit bulls

A Florida animal shelter sent out a desperate plea after someone had abandoned two pit bull dogs. But volunteers never expected the post would catch the attention of "Guardians of the Galaxy" actor Dave Bautista. The 6-year-old pit bulls, Maggie and Ollie, were handed over to the county after their owner had a baby. Volunteers from Rescue Me Tampa sought someone who would take both dogs, who had been together all their lives.

That was last month. A week later, the group posted a picture of the star hugging the two pups and announcing he had adopted them. The rescuers said Bautista is sponsoring the rescue dogs with "Tempur-Pedic dog beds, a large gated property and doggy doors everywhere."

From The Associated Press

WORLD

Iranian hard-liner calls for end to nuclear deal

By NASSER KARIMI
Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — A prominent member of Iran's powerful Guardian Council has told The Associated Press that the Islamic Republic should stop honoring all terms of the collapsing 2015 nuclear deal with world powers amid tensions with the United States.

The comments by Abbas Ali Kadhodaei show an increasing willingness among Iran's hard-liners to use the country's atomic program to pressure Western powers.

Nonproliferation experts are already concerned that steps Tehran has taken over the past months away from the accord narrow the estimated year it would need to build a nuclear bomb if it chose to pursue one.

Yet Iran still allows United Nations inspectors to monitor its nuclear sites and hasn't pushed its enrichment anywhere near weapons-grade levels of 90%.

Completely abandoning the deal as Kadhodaei suggests could lead to an immediate confrontation. Israel, which has bombed Iraq and Syria in the past to stop their atomic programs, repeatedly has warned it won't allow Iran to build a nuclear weapon.



VAHID SALEMI/AP

Abbas Ali Kadhodaei, a member of Iran's Guardian Council, says Iran should stop honoring the terms of its collapsing 2015 nuclear deal with world powers amid tensions with the U.S.

"I think those who disrupted the game should be punished since they damaged other parties' interests," Kadhodaei said in an interview with the AP in Tehran on Saturday.

Kadhodaei serves on the 12-member Guardian Council, a panel of six clerics appointed by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and six jurists nominated by Iran's hard-line judiciary approved by its parliament. The Guardian Council approves

all parliamentary and presidential candidates and must agree to all legislation passed by parliament before it becomes law.

That grants the body, which Kadhodaei has served on intermittently since 2001, tremendous power in the political life of the Islamic Republic. It has also never allowed a woman to run for president and blocks candidates calling for dramatic changes to the Islamic Republic.

The Guardian Council in 2015

approved the nuclear deal, which saw Iran limit its enrichment of uranium in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions. Iranians celebrated in the streets of Tehran, hopeful the deal between their relatively moderate President Hassan Rouhani and then-President Barack Obama meant Iran might normalize relations with the West after decades of enmity.

But President Donald Trump withdrew from the accord in May 2018, saying the deal didn't go far enough to stop Iran's ballistic missile program and what he described as Tehran's malign influence across the wider Mideast.

Kadhodaei says Iran should no longer honor its commitments in the deal, calling it "very natural, logical and based on the agreement's framework."

That directly contradicts Rouhani's position, who earlier this week declared Iran was "proud" of the deal. He tried to lobby hard-liners to back Iran's staying in the deal by saying that next year, the country would be able to sell and purchase weapons abroad — something the U.S. already fears.

"We have to think and see where the country's interests are," Rouhani said. "Since remaining in the deal benefits us, the Islamic

Republic of Iran chose a halfway method to protect the deal while reducing its commitments."

Kadhodaei, however, said pulling away from the deal would punish the U.S. "because they damaged others and their interests."

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has shown a lot of patience so far and it remained in the framework of its commitments," Kadhodaei said. "In recent months, it has taken some actions in direction of vindication of its rights."

Those recent actions are what Tehran calls its "four steps" away from the accord.

Iran now enriches uranium up to 4.5%, beyond the 3.67% allowed by the deal. Iranian officials say their stockpile of low-enriched uranium is over 1,100 pounds, beyond the accord's 661-pound limit. It also began using advanced centrifuges prohibited by the agreement and resumed enrichment at its underground Fordo facility.

The U.S. pullout from the nuclear deal sent Iran's economy into freefall. Nationwide economic protests roiled Iran at the end of 2017. Kadhodaei said the Iranian people would likely have those hardships in mind when they vote in parliamentary elections scheduled for February.

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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Cows cast away by hurricane found alive

NC CAPE LOOKOUT — A trio of castaway cows was discovered on North Carolina's Outer Banks, where they apparently washed up after swimming for miles to escape Hurricane Dorian's storm surge.

Cape Lookout National Seashore officials think the stranded cows swam up to 5 miles during the September storm before being found near Cape Lookout this month. The cows belong to a herd that roams freely on Cedar Island, across the sound.

Seashore spokesman B.G. Horvat told McClatchy news group the cows are grazing peacefully after a harrowing feat of survival, but they need to go home. He thinks they'll have to be sedated for the boat trip.

Principal indicted on child porn charges

KY WINCHESTER — A Kentucky principal who once made headlines for trying to ban books with what he deemed inappropriate content was indicted on child pornography charges.

News outlets reported that a grand jury charged Phillip Todd Wilson, 54, principal of the Clark County Area Technology Center, with 17 child pornography possession and distribution charges.

WKYT-TV reported the education department no longer employs Wilson.

The Lexington Herald-Leader says that when Wilson was the principal of Montgomery County High School in 2009, he fought to ban books with what he labeled "homosexual" or otherwise inappropriate material, including sex, abuse and drugs.

Sheriff: Man threw nails into neighbor's driveway

LA MONROE — A Louisiana man who had nails and screws thrown onto his driveway said it's not the first time the suspect accused of doing it tossed debris into a road.

The Monroe News Star reported that Prentice Lamar Tedton Jr., 60, was booked at Ouachita Correctional Center on three counts of stalking and four counts of criminal mischief.

A neighbor told Ouachita Parish deputies it wasn't the first time he and Tedton had argued. The neighbor accused Tedton of putting hazardous debris into a road in 2018 and later showing up at his workplace to accuse him of stealing an air hose.

Police quell brawl at high school

CA LOS ANGELES — Dozens of police officers had to be called onto a Los Angeles high school campus after a fight between two female students turned into a bottle-throwing brawl involving scores of people.

KCBS-TV reported the brawl broke out after "bad blood" between the students at John C. Fremont High School erupted when



WARREN RUDA, THE HAZELTON (PA.) STANDARD-SPEAKER/AP

Early Thanksgiving feast

Third graders Jake Bechtel, Logan Cora and Cole Benninger enjoy the annual Thanksgiving Feast at Fairview Elementary School in Fairview, Pa., on Tuesday. The children wore costumes and sang songs before enjoying a meal of traditional Thanksgiving foods and desserts. The students' parents provided food for the event, and the leftovers were delivered to the Catherine McAuley House in Plymouth, which provides housing and services for homeless women and children.

they saw each other at lunch.

LA schools police Officer Rudy Perez said one officer was hit with a bottle but not seriously hurt.

Eight students were detained and later released to their parents.

Former lawmaker takes picture of 3-antler deer

MI MARQUETTE — A former state lawmaker said he took a picture of an unusual deer: a buck with three antlers in the Upper Peninsula.

Steve Lindberg posted the photo to his Facebook page where he regularly shares pictures from the outdoors.

A veterinarian, Steve Edwards said the deer is normal and healthy. Edwards, who said it's possible that something happened when the deer was an embryo, told The Detroit Free Press that the three-antler deer is probably a "one-in-a-million thing."

Researchers tag 50 sharks off Cape Cod

MA BARNSTABLE — Researchers fitted 50 great white sharks found in Cape Cod waters this season with tracking and data-logging devices to study how the species kills seals, in order to benefit pub-

THE CENSUS

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left Blaze with nerve damage, but the center's rehab team said there's a strong chance it can be returned to the wild.

lic safety.

State shark researcher Gregory Skomal told the Cape Cod Times the primary focus is where and how white sharks kill seals, which will be used to determine when and where sharks are more likely to be present.

Police: Someone threw kittens from moving car

FL PINELLAS PARK — Police in Florida said they responded to an unsettling call about someone throwing kittens out of a moving car.

Pinellas Park police spokeswoman Roxanne Pohl said officers found one kitten dead along a road Monday.

She said they don't have a description of the suspect or the vehicle. They're not sure how many kittens were thrown into the road.

Pohl said investigators want to talk to anyone who may have witnessed the incident.

The weight in pounds of a green sea turtle that was rescued off the Florida coast. News outlets reported the turtle had a gash in its shell and is being cared for at the Loggerhead MarineLife Center in Juno Beach. Center spokeswoman Lauren Eissey said a boat strike appears to have

Police: Child stolen in running car found safe

TN MEMPHIS — Police in Tennessee said a suspect accused of stealing a running car with a child inside dropped the child off at a fire station unharmed.

The child's mother told investigators her car was stolen from a gas station where she briefly left it running with the child inside.

Police said the child was found safe after being dropped off by the suspect, who remained on the loose.

News outlets report the mother was cited for leaving her car running, and police alerted the Department of Child Services.

Substitute teacher fired after beating student

TX KYLE — A substitute teacher was fired and charged with aggravated assault

following the beating of a 15-year-old female high school student in an incident captured on video.

Tiffani Shaddell Lankford was free on \$10,000 bond. Video of the incident in a foreign-language class at Lehman High School in Kyle went viral.

Paul Batrice, an attorney for the girl's family, said the students in the class were being loud and the situation escalated when the teacher cursed at them.

One video shows the teacher swinging several times at the student before stomping on her head.

Camera, tripwire device found near monument

VA CHARLOTTESVILLE — Police have removed an unauthorized camera and apparent tripwire device from the vicinity of a Confederate monument in Charlottesville.

Charlottesville police spokesman Tyler Hawn said that neither the camera nor the "self-made" device belonged to police. He said officers removed them soon after citizens reported their presence.

Social media posts showed what looked like a tripwire attached to a bell by the base of the statue of Confederate Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson.

From wire reports

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Fed to pause rate cuts amid steady economic growth

By Christopher Rugaber
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell said Wednesday that the Fed is likely to keep its benchmark short-term interest rate unchanged in the coming months unless the economy shows signs of worsening.

But for now, in testimony before a congressional panel, Powell expressed optimism about the U.S. economy and said he expects it will grow at a solid pace, though it still faces risks from slower growth overseas and trade tensions.

"Looking ahead, my colleagues and I see a sustained expansion of economic activity, a strong labor market, and inflation near our symmetric 2% objective as most likely," Powell said before Congress' Joint Economic

Committee.

Fed policymakers are unlikely to cut rates, Powell said, unless the economy slows enough to cause them to make a "material reassessment" of their outlook.

The Fed cut short-term rates last month for the third time this year, to a range of 1.5% to 1.75%. "It now looks increasingly likely that the Fed will move to the sidelines for an extended period," said Andrew Hunter, an economist at Capital Economics, a forecasting firm.

Still, when asked if he expected rates to remain unchanged over the next year, Powell said, "I wouldn't say that at all."

Powell's testimony came a day after President Donald Trump took credit for an "economic boom" and attacked the Fed for not cutting interest rates further. Powell and other Fed officials, however, argue that their rate



JOSE LUIS MAGANA/AP

Federal Reserve Board Chair Jerome Powell testifies on the economic outlook on Capitol Hill in Washington on Wednesday.

cuts, by lowering borrowing costs on mortgages and other loans, have spurred home sales and boosted the economy.

Powell was asked about negative interest rates, which Trump also called for Tuesday, and responded that they "would certainly not be appropriate in the current environment."

Negative rates occur "at times when growth is quite low, and inflation is quite low, and you really don't see that here," Powell said.

Other Fed officials have also questioned whether cutting rates below zero has actually succeeded in boosting growth in places like Europe and Japan, where central banks have pushed rates into negative territory.

Recent data suggests that growth remains solid if not spec-

tacular. The economy expanded at a 1.9% annual rate in the July-September quarter, down from 3.1% in the first three months of the year. The unemployment rate is near a 50-year low of 3.6% and hiring is strong enough to potentially push the rate even lower.

Inflation, according to the Fed's preferred gauge, is just 1.3%, though it has been held down in recent months by lower energy costs and most Fed officials expect it to move higher in the coming months.

Most analysts forecast that the Fed will hold rates steady when it meets next month. But some economists expect growth will slow in the coming months and the Fed will likely have to cut again next year.

Motorola flips for its futuristic foldable phone

NEW YORK — Motorola is bracing for the future by returning to the past. The company is adapting its historical flip-phone design for a smartphone with a foldable screen.

Samsung, Huawei and others have phones that fold like a book and offer a double-sized display when unfolded.

Motorola's new Razer phone, on the other hand, will be smaller than a regular smartphone until unfolded to its full 6.2-inch size. The phone will launch in the U.S. in January starting at \$1,500.

From The Associated Press

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Nov. 15)	\$1.1283
Dollar buys (Nov. 15)	€0.8863
British pound (Nov. 15)	\$1.32
Japanese yen (Nov. 15)	¥106.00
South Korean won (Nov. 15)	₩1,000.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.2840
Canada (Dollar)	1.3262
China (Yuan)	7.0203
Denmark (Krone)	6.7920
Egypt (Pound)	16.1234
Euro	\$1,100.0/0.9090
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8307
Hungary (Forint)	303.63
Israel (Shekel)	3.4815
Japan (Yen)	106.66
Kuwait (Dinar)	3.0308
Norway (Krone)	9.1883
Philippines (Peso)	50.79
Poland (Zloty)	3.990
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7504
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3632
South Korea (Won)	1,171.11
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9892
Thailand (Baht)	30.21
Turkey (Lira)	5.7529

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

MARKET WATCH	
Nov. 13, 2019	
Dow Jones Industrials	92.10
	27,783.59
Nasdaq composite	-3.99
	8,482.10
Standard & Poor's 500	2.20
	3,094.04
Russell 2000	-5.94
	1,589.18

INTEREST RATES	
Prime rate	4.75
Discount rate	2.25
Federal reserve market rate	2.55
3-month bill	1.53
30-year bond	2.35

EUROPE GAS PRICES				
Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$2.878	\$3.330	\$3.384	\$3.336
Change in price	+1.0 cents	+0.3 cents	+0.8 cents	+1.1 cents
Netherlands	\$3.859	\$4.068	\$4.010	\$4.010
Change in price	..	+3.6 cents	+3.8 cents	-3.3 cents
U.K.	\$3.240	\$3.494	\$3.246	\$3.246
Change in price	..	+0.3 cents	+0.8 cents	+1.1 cents
Azores	\$3.575	..	..	..
Change in price	..	+0.8 cents	..	..
Belgium	\$3.600	\$2.860	\$2.860	\$3.130
Change in price	..	+72.2 cents	+1.1 cents	+2.3 cents
Turkey	\$3.385	\$3.137	..	..
Change in price	..	..	+0.8 cents	+1.1 cents

PACIFIC GAS PRICES				
Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	\$3.379	..	..	\$3.129
Change in price	..	+1.0 cents	..	+1.0 cents
Okhawa	\$2.669	..	..	\$3.129
Change in price	+1.0 cents	..	..	+1.0 cents
South Korea	\$2.699	..	\$3.409	\$3.159
Change in price	+1.0 cents	..	+1.0 cents	+1.0 cents
Guam	\$2.679**	\$3.129	\$3.389	..
Change in price	+1.0 cents	No change	+1.0 cents	..

* Diesel EFD ** Midgrade
For the week of Nov. 15-21

FRIDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



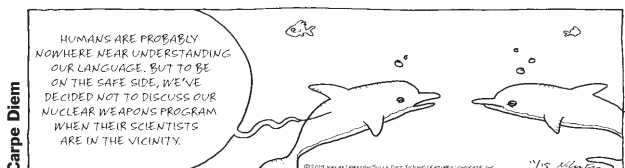
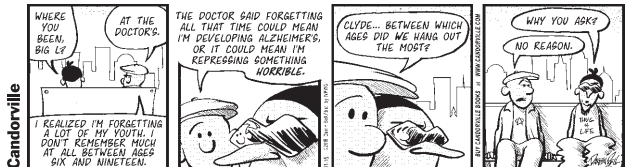
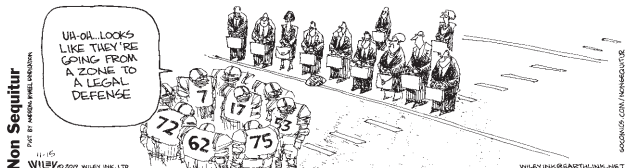
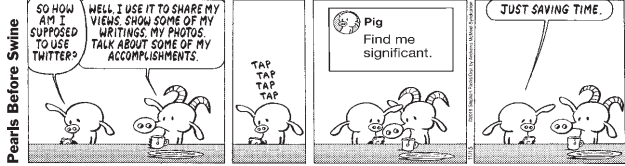
FRIDAY IN EUROPE



SATURDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11			
12				13				14							
15				16				17							
18				19											
20			21			22				23	24	25	26		
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35						36		37							
38								39	40			41	42	43	44
								45				46		47	
48	49	50	51											52	
53								54						55	
56								57						58	

ACROSS

- 1 "Blue Bloods" aier
- 4 Tax form ID
- 7 Brought under control
- 12 Acapulco gold
- 13 Indivisible
- 14 Russian range
- 15 Steal from
- 16 Factory that processes wood pulp
- 18 Soul, to Camus
- 19 Offspring
- 20 Byron or Tennynson
- 22 Hearty quaff
- 23 Not pizzicato
- 27 "Mangia!"
- 29 Second cup of coffee
- 31 "We — Overcome"
- 34 Lent a hand
- 35 Assistance for WWII vets
- 37 "It's c-c-cold!"
- 38 Hardy lass
- 39 Buckeyes' sch.
- 41 Holiday lead-ins
- 45 Overcharge for tickets
- 47 Jungfrau, for one
- 48 Winter weather factor
- 52 Wire measure
- 53 Prince Harry's mom

DOWN

- 25 The Browns, on scoreboards
- 26 Like Yeller
- 28 100%
- 30 Hearing thing
- 31 Pvt.'s superior
- 32 Hasten
- 33 Tummy muscle
- 36 Scottish lake
- 37 Unit of ammo
- 40 Mayflower features
- 42 Improvises
- 43 Select group
- 44 Pie-in-the-face sound
- 45 "Lion King" villain
- 46 Tactic
- 48 OED entries
- 49 Sundial numeral
- 50 Rebel Turner
- 51 "CSI" evidence

Answer to Previous Puzzle

C	O	B	C	O	U	P	W	R	E	N				
A	R	E	R	I	T	A	A	I	R	E				
B	E	R	K	E	L	E	Y	I	T	S	A			
T	I	E	S	E	L	T	Z	E	R					
T	I	R	A	D	E	E	Y	E						
A	D	A	S	A	W	E	R	E	C	T				
M	E	N	D	T	I	A	S	N	O	W				
S	A	D	A	T	T	R	U	C	E	O				
						B	U	S	C	L	O	U	D	S
B	L	U	B	B	E	R	C	O	M					
L	I	L	I	N	O	V	E	M	B	E	R			
I	M	A	N	O	V	E	R	E	L	M				
P	A	N	G	R	E	G	S	R	O	N				

11-15

CRYPTOQUIP

DYRHQTY HNN FGY TFQKYOFT
 EO WQJ BJHKY GHLY
 IHRGEOB KJEOA LYTTYNT,
 PYJY AOWPO HT BNHTTIFYT.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THEME SONG THAT PEOPLE HEAR PLAYING AT CHEWING-GUM BLOWING COMPETITIONS: "TOURNEY BUBBLES."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals L

STARS AND STRIPES

Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher
Lt. Col. Sean Kirmke, Europe commander
Lt. Col. Richard McClintic, Pacific commander
Caroline E. Miller, Europe Business Operations

EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor
leonard.terry@stripes.com
Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor
reid.robert@stripes.com
Tina Croley, Managing Editor for Content
croley.tina@stripes.com
Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation
moores.sean@stripes.com
Joe Gromelski, Managing Editor for Digital
gromelski.joe@stripes.com

BUREAU STAFF

Europe/Mideast
Erik Slavik, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief
slavik.erik@stripes.com
+1-406-331.3615.9350, DSN (314)583.9350
Pacific
Aaron Kidd, Pacific Bureau Chief
kidd.aaron@stripes.com
+81-42.552.2511 ext. 88380, DSN (315)277.380
Washington
Joseph Cacchioli, Washington Bureau Chief
cacchioli.joseph@stripes.com
(+1)202/886-0033
Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News
busters.brian@stripes.com

CIRCULATION

Midwest
Robert Reismann, Midwest Circulation Manager
robert.l.reismann.na@gmail.com
reismann@stripes.com
DSN (314)583-9111
Europe
Karen Lewis, Community Engagement Manager
lewis.karen@stripes.com
memberservices@stripes.com
+1-490(6)331.3615.9090, DSN (314)583.9090
Pacific
Mar Mori, Customer Help@stripes.com
+81-3 6385.3171; DSN (315)229.3171

CONTACT US

Washington
tel: +1-202-886-0023
633 3rd St. NW, Suite 116, Washington, DC 20001-3050
Reader letters
letters@stripes.com
Additional contacts
stripes.com/contact

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Ernie Gates

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Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published weekdays (except Dec. 23 and Jan. 1) for 50 cents Monday through Thursday and 60 cents on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AF 96301-5002, Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AF 96301-5002.

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OPINION

Why does US still believe in 'good coups'?

By ERICA DE BRUN
Special to The Washington Post

U.S. officials have developed a bad habit of endorsing military meddling in global politics — ironically, in the name of democracy. Some heralded the resignation of Italian President Evo Morales this week after nearly 14 years in power as a victory for democracy. Although his regime remained popular, Morales' increasingly brazen efforts to serve a fourth term in office had sparked violent protests. Though Morales initially appeared determined to hold on to power, the turning point appears to have been the defection of Bolivia's military and security forces. On Sunday, the commander of the armed forces publicly pressured him to step down.

While there is some debate about whether the developments in Bolivia constitute a "coup" or a "popular revolution," the military's role in Morales' ouster has many of the hallmarks of a typical coup attempt. Coups are usually understood as illegal, overt attempts to unseat the executive. Those that involve general and other high-ranking officers are frequently accomplished without the use of violence. Instead, they can take the form of public pressure to resign.

President Donald Trump applauded Bolivia's military for pressuring Morales. The development, he said, "has, once again, claimed, brought the world 'one step closer to a completely democratic, prosperous and free Western Hemisphere.'"

This is hardly the first time U.S. officials have implied that military intervention in politics might help countries usher into democracy. In 2002, when the Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaidó called upon soldiers to join him in ousting

President Nicolas Maduro from power, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo suggested Guaidó's proposed coup would result in "a peaceful democratic transition."

Similarly, in 2013, when Egypt's military leaders ousted Mohamed Morsi, the country's first democratically elected ruler, from power, Obama administration officials portrayed it as an expression of the popular will, rather than a coup attempt. Secretary of State John Kerry claimed that in ousting Morsi, the military was "restoring democracy" rather than seizing power. The temptation to endorse the domestic political maneuverings of military leaders against unfriendly regimes is clearly strong for U.S. policymakers. In recent years, moreover, a number of observers have suggested that coups might be the only way to remove entrenched dictators from power. Coups sometimes succeed in replacing repressive rulers with more democratic ones, and since the end of the Cold War, these so-called "good coups" — those that are quickly followed by competitive elections — have risen in number. Examples include the coups in Niger in 1999 and Guinea in 2003, both of which preceded free and fair elections.

But faith in the military to restore democracy is misplaced. There is, in fact, scant evidence that coups and other forms of military intervention result in more democratic rule. Notwithstanding the recent upsurge in the number of "good coups," coups still more often than not simply replace one dictator with another.

Just as importantly, those military interventions that are followed by elections rarely bring about lasting change. In Egypt, for instance, human rights organizations say that since 2013, there have been arrests, the detention of protesters and human rights workers, new restrictions

on nongovernmental organizations and repression of political opposition. The same misplaced optimism followed the 2006 coup in Thailand.

What makes "good coups" lead to bad outcomes? The basic answer is that letting military rule interfere with the political process goes unchecked undermines norms of civilian control of the military that are a prerequisite for stable, democratic rule. It encourages military officers to see themselves as above the law. Hence, when civilian elites invite military officers to weigh in on politics, it is difficult to get them to stop. Morales himself learned this the hard way. When the current crisis began to unfold, he appealed directly to the military to help him remain in power, only to see it throw its weight behind his opponents.

It is a matter of long-standing U.S. policy, moreover, to bolster the norm of civilian control of the military abroad, as reflected in State and Defense departments' security-assistance programs that devote substantial resources to convincing foreign militaries to accept that control. The opportunistic deviations from these policies, however, that have triggered the administrations only undermine such commitments while achieving little in the way of real democracy promotion.

A response to the crisis in Bolivia consistent with promoting democratic rule would involve simultaneously condemning the alleged election fraud that triggered the recent crisis and the military's response to it. The temptation to rely on the military to check would-be authoritarianism will continue to crop up in the context of mass protests. But the longer-term survival of democratic rule depends on resisting it.

Erica De Brun is an assistant professor of government at Hamilton College and the author of the forthcoming "How to Prevent Coups that

Neighborliness gets a little harder in Trump Country

By GUY ABERNATHY
Special to The Washington Post

THE majority of residents in the Hillsboro, Ohio, Trump Country stronghold of Highland County remain united around President Donald Trump. Rather than shaking their resolve, the impeachment proceedings are solidifying their support. But while three-fourths of the electorate here voted for Trump in 2016, those among the other 25 percent view him through a different lens, while trying to make sure the deep partisan divide does not affect lifelong friendships.

Dinah Phillips has spent nearly two decades as chairwoman of the county Democratic Party, working against the local Republican tide year after year to advance her party's candidates and agenda. After 50-plus years in the legal system as a court reporter, Phillips, 73, knows almost everyone, and has maintained positive relationships with the majority of residents regardless of political affiliation. But she has noticed a change with Trump. "It just uses to be, we could have a good conversation," Phillips said. But now, "I temper what I say more so than I used to, especially if I'm talking to a Trump supporter. They would get into a knock-down, drag-out fight, and I never felt that way before."

She thinks Trump's tariffs are harmful to local farmers, and several other policies are misguided. But "what really bothers her is that Trump is 'very divisive' — more so than previous presidents. "I don't care for his language," Phillips said. "We expect better from the president." She finds it confusing that, when it comes to Trump's words and deeds, "people who are religious

don't seem to care."

Cody Mathews, 27, is an enthusiastic and loquacious student of politics who teaches history at Hillsboro High School and serves as president of the Hillsboro Education Association. He has been in the Trump administration analogies to two former presidents — Warren G. Harding in regard to scandals, and Andrew Jackson in the use of "racially charged language," comparing Trump's criticisms of undocumented immigrants with Jackson's demonizing of Native Americans. Mathews doesn't avoid more about issues, than character flaws. He sees Trump as a "gaslighter," pandering to the fears, rather than the hopes, of many Americans while, in fact, "he's let down workers in the Midwest." Trump, he said, is a reactionary, not a strategist.

Unlike Phillips, Mathews doesn't avoid political conversations with Trump supporters. He enjoys a good debate. But he is mindful that most of his students come from pro-Trump families and he keeps his politics out of the classroom — even, he chuckles, when "the kids try to trap me."

Wendell Harewood, 82, worked for the U.S. Postal Service for 30 years, including 20 as postmaster in the county seat, Hillsboro, and has served on numerous boards and community organizations. He is soft-spoken and measures his words carefully. He is also among just 4.7 percent of Hillsboro residents who are black, and, for Harewood, that's why Trump's support here is not complicated.

"There are not a lot of people here who don't look like him," said Harewood. Harewood, who spent 50 years as an AME pastor, said he was "shocked" when Trump was elected. "I don't think there's a Christian bone in that man's body." He was critical, pointing to Trump's treatment of women

and minorities. Even what he hoped was a sign of progress with the election of Barack Obama, Harewood fears Trump "is taking us back to the '50s and '60s."

He avoids using pejorative labels to define local Trump supporters, saying instead, "I think it's more of the fact they've been brought up that way," not trusting "anybody who doesn't look like them." Harewood echoed Phillips' sentiments about living in Trump Country. "It's becoming more difficult," he said.

"Harewood has no doubts. "I wonder if everything is legitimate they're bringing up," he said, referring to both parties.

Mathews acknowledged that impeachment "plays well with Democrats," but he also thinks it's "the right thing to do." To him, Trump's Ukraine phone call represented not just a quid pro quo but also outright extortion.

Phillips, Mathews and Harewood expect that when they vote next year, they will be outnumbered 3 to 1 here by pro-Trump friends and neighbors. But whether it's the optimism of youth, or wisdom beyond his years, Mathews isn't discouraged. "Harewood, no, he has doubts. "I wonder if everything is legitimate they're bringing up," he said, referring to both parties.

Gary Abernathy, a contributing columnist for The Washington Post, is a freelance writer and former newspaper editor based in Hillsboro, Ohio.

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.

Make vapor, tobacco products illegal for all buyers under 21

The Seattle Times

Federal lawmakers should follow the lead of Washington and at least 17 other states in raising the age of legal sale for vapor and tobacco products to age 21.

Doing so will make it more difficult for high school students to access these potentially harmful products while helping keep them out of the hands of even younger teens.

Although it is often pitched as a safer alternative to cigarettes for existing adult smokers, vaping has been devastatingly popular with young people. In a recent survey, one third of the state's high school students reported using e-cigarettes in 2018. According to national data, 5 million children use e-cigarettes, compared with 8 million adults.

Trump administration officials are said to be considering increasing the legal age of purchase and banning flavored e-cigarette products. But the sweet flavors do taste like candy, fruit, sweet desserts and are popular with young users, who also say they appreciate small, discreet vape pens over traditional tobacco cigarettes.

But nicotine can harm developing brains regardless of how it is ingested — through smoking, water vapor by inhalers. As this summer's rash of vaping-related lung injuries so clearly demonstrates, additives may present other unknown dangers. As of last week, 2,051 cases of vaping-related lung injuries had been reported in 49 states — every state except Alaska. Thirty-nine deaths had been confirmed. As of last 14 cases of vaping-related lung injury have been reported in Washington since April.

The apparent link between the injuries and the additive vitamin E acetate has the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention urging people to avoid e-cigarette products containing TFH, particularly from informal sources or online merchants. The Washington State Department of Health has asked the state's vapor product processors to stop using vitamin E acetate or distributing products containing the additive as health officials review the evidence.

For years, e-cigarettes have largely been sold by retailers, based on the lack of evidence of actual harm. Those days are definitively over. A federal ban on underage sales and tighter restrictions on flavorings and additives are needed to safeguard public health.

Sandy Hook ruling could also help future cases

The Washington Post

Gun-makers and sellers have never really had to account for the deadly consequences of their products because of an unusual federal law enacted in 2005 that gave the industry a super-majority vote. So the Supreme Court's decision not to block a lawsuit brought in the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting is a significant — and welcome — development. It may give the families of the victims their day in court while providing a road map for voters who are looking for the most lawsuits. So the Supreme Court's decision not to block a lawsuit brought in the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting is a significant — and welcome — development. It may give the families of the victims their day in court while providing a road map for voters who are looking for the most lawsuits. So the Supreme Court's decision not to block a lawsuit brought in the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting is a significant — and welcome — development. It may give the families of the victims their day in court while providing a road map for voters who are looking for the most lawsuits.

The Supreme Court announced Tuesday it would not consider an appeal from the manufacturer of the assault weapon used in the Dec. 14, 2012, massacre in Newtown, Conn., that took the lives of 20 first graders and six educators. The decision, issued without comment from any individual jus-



JACQUELYN MARTIN/AP

Supporters of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, including David Castro, 14, center, and Anahi Andino, 17, right, both of Baltimore, rally outside the U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday as oral arguments were heard in the DACA case.

tice, lets stand a groundbreaking ruling from the Connecticut Supreme Court that found an exception in federal law allowing the manufacturer to be sued and potentially held liable under state law regarding unfair trade practices.

The case against Remington Arms, brought by relatives of nine victims who died and a survivor of the shooting, focused on how the AR-15-style Bushmaster used in the attack was marketed with militaristic and hypermasculine advertising and used product placement in videos to appeal to younger, at-risk males. The suit alleges it was no accident that the troubled 20-year-old Sandy Hook gunman chose this particular weapon — promoted under slogans like "Consider your man card reissued" — to carry out a murderous rampage that took less than five minutes.

The families still must go to trial and another California jury decided to raise the bar for the deaths of their loved ones. But by bringing the case to trial, they hope to get access to information long kept private by the gun industry that will provide insights into how the industry operates.

Some states rightly see value in not imposing income taxes

The Wall Street Journal

Texas has become one of America's fastest-growing states, thanks in part to its lack of a state income tax. So it was encouraging last week when Long Star State voters made it even more difficult to impose such a tax.

The Texas constitution since 1993 has barred the Legislature from imposing an income tax without the approval of voters in a statewide referendum. But with progressives working hard to turn Texas into another California, voters decided to raise the bar. Proposition 4 changes the state constitution to require income-tax legislation to win two-thirds support in both legislative chambers and majority approval in a referendum. It passed with 74% of the vote.

Nine states have no personal income tax, and Texas is the latest to protect a political model that leads to higher GDP growth, employment and wages. Tennessee voters in 2014 backed 2-to-1 a constitutional amendment banning its Legislature from introducing taxes on payroll or earned personal income. In 2018, super-majorities of Florida voters supported a constitutional amendment that requires a two-thirds vote of each chamber of the Legislature to raise current taxes or enact new ones.

These measures are important obstacles to future narrow majorities that might seek to impose an income tax. They're all the more important as the success of

low-tax states attracts migrants who often carry the bad political habits of their former homes.

The citizens of California, New York, Connecticut and other states have learned the hard way that once an income tax is imposed, spending balloons and the march to ever-higher taxes is on. Democrats in Illinois, prodded by public unions, are now trying to rewrite their state constitution to kill its requirement for a flat income tax. Taxpayers need every procedural fortification they can get from the relentless forces of tax and spend.

Parks eschew commercial amenities. Preserve that.

Chicago Sun-Times

Just as the Indiana Dunes finally has achieved national park status, Washington voters are trying to cash in on all the parks by commercializing them to the max.

Their noxious notions include opening the parks to food trucks, expanded WiFi, mobile camp stores and even Amazon deliveries to campsites. Please make this wretched scheme go away.

When we go to the Indiana Dunes, we want peaceful windswept shores and tranquil forest paths, not a tailgate party. When we go to Great Smoky Mountains National Park in North Carolina, we want the spray of a waterfall and a quiet campfire. We get all the crowding and clamor we want — or can stand — in our daily lives.

Evidently, the people on the Trump administration's Outdoor Recreation Advisory Committee disagree. In a new proposal, the committee, which is a part of the Department of the Interior, argues for making way for those food trucks, Amazon deliveries and other amenities more appropriate to daily city life.

Nobody should be surprised. The committee has been lambasted since it was formed early last year by former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke as nothing but a shell for commercial interests. The committee largely is made up of representatives from the tourism, manufacturing, hospitality and recreation industries.

Last year, The Washington Post obtained documents showing that private industry pushed for the creation of the committee for the sole purpose of getting a foothold in this kind of commercialization — to the

farther wallet goes the spoils — could price

some Americans right out of the parks. To jack up revenue, for example, the committee has proposed eliminating senior discounts during the peak summer camping season.

It's hard to buy the committee's argument that the parks are "underused" — one of Bernhardt's favorite words — when there were 318 million visits last year and a record-high 330,882,751 visits the year before.

"I have a room all to myself," Henry David Thoreau once wrote. "It is nature." Leave the national parks alone.

DACA is a fair fix that should be written into law, not axed

Los Angeles Times

Predicting how the U.S. Supreme Court will decide a case based on the questions the justices raise during oral arguments is a fraught endeavor, but the tenor of those questions Tuesday morning did not bode well for supporters of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. Chief Justice John Roberts, a potential swing vote, at times seemed to give credence to the Trump administration's argument that President Barack Obama lacked the legal authority to create DACA in the first place.

If the court ultimately finds that President Donald Trump has the authority to end the program regardless of his spurious rationale, the damage to the so-called Dreamers receiving protections, and to the communities in which they live, could be disastrous. It would send the country's imprimatur to one of the harshest approaches to immigration in modern American history.

DACA, for those who don't remember, is the process Obama crafted in 2012 to defer deportations for people who have lived in the U.S. illegally since they were children, but who were not allowed or attending high school and have not been convicted of serious crimes, among other criteria. It goes without argument that the 700,000 or so people currently receiving protection from deportation were living here without permission prior to gaining DACA status. But it makes no sense to oust the Dreamers from the only country they have ever really known, and to deport them to countries that are not only foreign to them, but where in many cases they don't even speak the language. Remember, most of the Dreamers bear little to no responsibility for their predicament.

The Trump administration argues that Obama stretched federal immigration law past its breaking point with the DACA order, and in 2017 it sought to kill the program as legally indefensible. This gets into arcane areas of authority, but DACA's defensible because the president's program is illegal, because he thinks it's illegal, that's a decision for the courts. A president can end or reverse a predecessor's order because he thinks it's bad policy, if he sets out a well-reasoned argument explaining why. With DACA, the Trump administration failed to do so.

But whatever court decides — and we fervently hope it comes down on the side of the Dreamers — this issue is best resolved for the long term by Congress. To its credit, Congress has tried, sort of, to craft a permanent solution. Even Trump has previously said he would support legislation that would do this. But the president's roadblock by insisting that in return for his support Congress must also approve unrelated measures to fund his wall along the U.S.-Mexico border and make other changes to border security.

Congress should push through a clean bill of legislation that would grant a path to citizenship to qualified Dreamers. A DACA decision by the Supreme Court would be welcome, but it is not a long-term solution since the Trump administration — or any future anti-immigrant regime — could simply go through the correct bureaucratic process and shut the protections. A legislative solution is years overdue.

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



THE WORLD'S MOST DANGEROUS PAPER ROUTE

AAFES Show Dates Timeline

Kuwait – Arifjan Zone 1: November 18th @ 2000

Kuwait – Buehring: November 18th @ 2000

Kuwait – Ali Al Salem: November 19th @ 2000

Qatar – Al Udied: October 24th @ 2000

Qatar – As Sayliyah: October 23rd @ 2000

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SCOREBOARD

College basketball

Wednesday's men's scores

EAST	
Albany (NY) 83, Canisius 57	Boston College 59, Holy Spirit 33
Brown 70, Quinnipiac 68	Yankee 39, St. Peter's 44
Colgate 56, Hofstra 71	Columbia 75, Binghamton 63
Franklin Pierce 59, New Hampshire 90	Fordham 53, Fairleigh Dickinson 50
LIU 89, NYU 66	Lafayette 72, Princeton 65
NY 29, Cornell 58	Ohio 71, Iowa 72
Penn 75, La Salle 99	UMass Lowell 62, Drexel 57
St. Joseph's 96, UConn 87	Syracuse 70, Colgate 54
UMass Lowell 62, St. Mary's (Md.) 57	Vermont 62, Boston U. 47

Thursday's men's scores

SOUTH	
George Mason 90, LIU Brooklyn 74	Grambling St. 81, SE Louisiana 70
IPUUI 70, South Florida 53	Jacksonville 66, Shenandoah 48
Louisville 91, Indiana 52	Middle Tennessee 56, Miami 82
NC State 96, FIU 77	Nicholls 81, Paul Quinn 66
OK State 53, Col. College 66	Okla. State 59, Charleston 54
Old Dominion 62, Loyola (Md.) 53	Samford 102, Virginia 56
Virginia Tech 74, Morehead 65	WV 48, LSU 82
Wake Forest 58, CS-Uppstate 57	Ball State 68, UNC Asheville 79

Friday, Nov. 15

EAST	
LIU 0-0 at Villanova (7-3)	

WEST

UMI (4-6) at Army (6-4)	Robert Morris (6-4) at CCSU (9-1)
Penn (4-4) at Harvard (4-4)	Rhode Island (2-8) at Maine (5-5)
Jacksonville (2-8) at Marist (3-6)	Indiana (7-2) at Penn St. (6-2)
Lehigh (4-5) at Sacred Heart (6-4)	Wagner (1-9) at St. Francis (Pa.) (4-6)
Holy Cross (4-4) at Temple (6-3)	Colgate (3-8) at Lafayette (3-6)
Holy Cross (4-4) at Albany (NY) (6-2)	Duquesne (6-3) at Bryant (2-6)
Georgetown (5-4) at Bucknell (2-7)	Brown (1-1) at Colby (3-3)
St. Joseph's (5-5) at Delaware (4-2)	Franklin Pierce (1-9) at Merrimack (4-5)
Yale (7-1) at Princeton (2-7)	Yale (7-1) at Princeton (2-7)
Cornell (2-6) at Dartmouth (6-0)	Georgetown (4-5) at Albany (NY) (6-2)
Ohio St. (9-0) at Rutgers (2-7)	

MIDWEST

Ball State 67, UMKC 58	Marquette 65, Purdue 55
UMass Lowell 62, Monmouth (NJ) 54	Drake 74, Fordham 59
Northwest 67, CS Bakersfield 57	Providence 63
Ill. 76, Villanova 99	St. Louis 82, E. Washington 60
Wisconsin 83, McNeese 63	

WESTERN

Stephen F. Austin 87, Niagara 74	Texas Tech 103, Houston Baptist 78
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FAVORITES

BVU 68, 5, Utah 63	Washington 60, Wyoming 53
NC State 96, 8, Omaha 65	New Mexico 53, Green Bay 78
San Diego 81, 26, Grand Canyon 61	

Wednesday's women's scores

Bucknell 68, St. Bonaventure 60	Dartmouth 57, Merrimack 52
Col. College 59, LIU Brooklyn 51	Holy Cross 80, Boston College 71
St. George's 60, Virginia 52	Loyola (Md.) 75, Fairleigh Dickinson 46
Marist (N.Y.) 52	Penn 71, UT 51
Penn St. 72, Fordham 59	Rutgers 57, Niagara 37
Robert Morris 58, Youngstown St. 43	St. John's 76, Lafayette 44
Stony Brook 81, Hofstra 38	UMass Lowell 52, Mercer 64
Wagner 90, St. Peter's 89	Wagner 90, St. Peter's 89

SOUTH

Coast Carolina 62, Greensboro 54	Fl. Gd. 67, Appalachian 31
Florida Gulf Coast 72, UCF 50	Georgia 75, Jacksonville 57
Furman 58, North Greenville 51	Georgia 72, NC A&T 57
Jacksonville 66, Northwestern 51	Kennesaw St. 66, Northwestern 51
Kennesaw St. 66, Northwestern 51	Kennesaw St. 66, Northwestern 51
Longwood 59, UNC Wilmington 58	Longwood 59, UNC Wilmington 58
Marshall 53, Middle Tennessee 53	MVU 72, Murray 56
North Carolina 68, Florida 55	Presbyterian 72, William Peace 35
South Carolina 61, UT 65	South Carolina 61, UT 65
South Carolina 75, Dayton 49	Texas 102, 20, Grand Canyon 61

MIDWEST

Butler 82, Detroit 60	Ill. 76, Davis & Elkins 41
Ill. 76, Davis & Elkins 41	Ill. 76, Davis & Elkins 41
Ill. 76, Davis & Elkins 41	Ill. 76, Davis & Elkins 41
Ill. 76, Davis & Elkins 41	Ill. 76, Davis & Elkins 41

WEST

Missouri 79, Arkansas 57	Missouri 79, Arkansas 57
Missouri 79, Arkansas 57	Missouri 79, Arkansas 57
Missouri 79, Arkansas 57	Missouri 79, Arkansas 57

SOUTHWEST

LSU 65, UALR 50	OKlahoma 79, Tulsa 48
OKlahoma 79, Tulsa 48	OKlahoma 79, Tulsa 48
OKlahoma 79, Tulsa 48	OKlahoma 79, Tulsa 48

FAVORITES

Missouri 79, Arkansas 57	Missouri 79, Arkansas 57
Missouri 79, Arkansas 57	Missouri 79, Arkansas 57
Missouri 79, Arkansas 57	Missouri 79, Arkansas 57

College football

Wednesday's scores

MIDWEST	
E. Michigan 42, Akron 14	Miami (Ohio) 44, Bowling Green 3
North Dakota 37, Ohio State 10	W. Michigan 37, Ohio State, 40

Schedule

Friday, Nov. 15

EAST	
LIU 0-0 at Villanova (7-3)	

WEST

Louisiana Tech (8-1) at Marshall (6-3)	
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FAVORITES

Fresno St. (4-5) at San Diego St. (7-2)	
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EAST

Kansas City 6-4	600	284	239
Oakland 4-6	556	208	240
L.A. Chargers 4-6	400	204	174
Denver 3-7	333	149	170

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East			
Dallas 5-1	556	251	170
Philadelphia 4-2	556	251	170
N.Y. Giants 2-8	200	203	289
Washington 1-11	108	119	215

West

Kansas City 6-4	600	284	239
Oakland 4-6	556	208	240
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Philadelphia 4-2	556	251	170
N.Y. Giants 2-8	200	203	289
Washington 1-11	108	119	215

Pro football

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East			
New England 8-1	689	270	98
Buffalo 6-3	467	174	150
Indianapolis 5-4	522	113	211
N.Y. Jets 2-7	202	120	138

West

Houston 6-3	667	238	191
Oakland 4-6	556	208	240
Tennessee 5-5	500	203	197
Jacksonville 4-6	444	176	189

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East			
Baltimore 7-2	778	300	189
Cleveland 6-3	633	171	221
Cincinnati 6-3	600	137	259

West

Kansas City 6-4	600	284	239
Oakland 4-6	556	208	240
L.A. Chargers 4-6	400	204	174
Denver 3-7	333	149	170

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

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West

NHL/COLLEGE BASKETBALL

NHL roundup

Capitals sneak past Flyers in shootout, extend point streak

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — The Washington Capitals have a calm confidence in the game's most tense moments.

T.J. Oshie and Evgeny Kuznetsov scored in a shootout to lift Washington over the Philadelphia Flyers 2-1 Wednesday night.

Brendan Leipsic had a goal in the first period and Braden Holtby made 30 saves for the Capitals, who extended their point streak to 13 games (11-0-2) and increased their NHL-best total to 32 points.

"The talk on our bench is, 'Who's going to get the next goal? Let's see who's going to do it,'" Washington coach Todd Reirden said. "No one slams doors. No one breaks streaks. We believe in our system."

Claude Giroux scored for the Flyers (11-3), who had won five straight. Philadelphia has earned at least one point in seven consecutive games (5-0-2).

Carter Hart made 35 saves in regulation and overtime, including several late high-light-red stops, but the 21-year-old net-minder couldn't stop either Washington attempt in the shootout.

After Jakub Voracek missed high with a backhand, Oshie beat Hart through the legs. Giroux scored over Holtby's left shoulder to tie it, but Kuznetsov followed with a forehand high into the net and the Capitals celebrated when Couturier couldn't convert in the third round for the Flyers.

"We're finding ways to gather points," Reirden said. "It felt like we deserved the two points."

Giroux tied the game with 13:22 left in the third period on the power play after a nifty pass from Voracek in front of the net.

The Capitals had several chances to take the lead late, but Hart denied one quality chance after another.

"You need some saves and we got some saves," Flyers coach Alain Vigneault said. "He's doing a good job for us and helping give us a chance to be in games and win games, and that's what you want from your goaltender."

The Flyers goalie twice stopped John Carlson from close range with just under four minutes left in the third, denying both the initial shot and the rebound try.

Tom Wilson had a great chance for Washington 43 seconds later, but Hart turned aside his backhand follow attempt from in front. Wilson had another high-quality chance with 35 seconds left in the third, but couldn't beat Hart with a forehand.

Islanders 5, Maple Leafs 4: Anthony Beauverlier scored twice, Derick Brassard had a goal and

two assists, and streaking New York held off visiting Toronto.

Semyon Varlamov made 23 saves and the Islanders earned a point for the 13th straight game (12-0-1). Mathew Barzal had a goal and an assist.

Kasperi Kapanen, William Nylander, Justin Holl and John Tavares scored for the Maple Leafs in their third straight loss. Frederik Andersen had 25 saves in Toronto's second game since losing Mitchell Marner for at least four weeks due to a high ankle sprain. **Senators 4, Devils 2:** Jean-Gabriel Pageau scored a hat trick, including the go-ahead goal with 2:01 to play, and Ottawa rallied in the third period to win at New Jersey.

Mark Borowicz tied the game with 6:30 to go, and Pageau got the winner when he put the rebound of a shot off the post by Nick Paul into an open net. Pageau finished off his first regular-season hat trick with 26 seconds left on a shot into an empty net. He has eight goals in his last six games.

Craig Anderson made 21 saves for the Senators, including a breakout stop on Taylor Hall midway through the third period with the Devils ahead 2-1.

Will Butcher and Wayne Simmonds scored for New Jersey, who returned from a 10-game road trip. Mackenzie Blackwood stopped 21 shots.

Blackhawks 5, Golden Knights 3: Erik Gustafsson scored his first goal of the season, Corey Crawford made 39 saves and Chicago won at Las Vegas for the first time.

Patrick Kane, Calvin de Haan, Kirby Dach and Dylan Strome also scored for the Blackhawks.

Crawford, who improved to 2-0 in his last four games, entered 0-3-0 versus the Golden Knights with a 5.38 goals-against average, and .859 save percentage.

William Carrier, William Karlsson and Nate Schmidt scored for Vegas against a team they'd dominated since entering the NHL in 2017. Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 21 shots.

Stars 3, Flames 4: Joe Pavelski scored twice, including an empty-net goal, and resurgent Dallas won on the road.

Calgary native Justin Dowling's first NHL goal was the winner for the Stars, which is 8-1 after stumbling to a 1-7-1 start this season. Ben Bishop made 24 saves.

Sean Monahan scored for the Flames (10-8-3), who lost in regulation for just the second time at home (6-2-2). Cam Talbot turned aside 29 shots.



Matt Slocum/AP

Washington Capitals forward Brendan Leipsic, right, celebrates scoring a goal during his team's 2-1 shootout win in Philadelphia.

NHL scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division						
W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Boston	18	11	3	4	26	64
Montreal	18	11	6	4	24	58
Florida	18	9	4	5	23	67
Toronto	18	9	4	5	20	68
Buffalo	17	9	6	2	20	58
Tampa Bay	15	8	10	1	15	52
Ottawa	15	8	10	1	15	61
Detroit	20	12	1	2	14	45

Metropolitan Division

W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Washington	20	14	2	3	27	79
N.Y. Islanders	18	13	2	2	24	59
Philadelphia	18	10	5	3	23	54
Pittsburgh	18	10	6	1	21	52
Columbus	18	10	6	1	21	52
N.Y. Rangers	16	8	6	2	18	53
Carolina	17	9	2	1	14	62
New Jersey	17	5	8	4	14	44

Western Conference

Central Division						
W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
St. Louis	19	12	3	4	28	59
Minnesota	18	11	6	2	20	58
Nashville	18	9	6	3	21	68
Chicago	19	10	2	1	21	58
Winnipeg	17	7	9	2	20	68
Colorado	18	7	9	2	19	56
Minnesota	18	7	9	2	19	56

Pacific Division

W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Edmonton	19	11	6	2	26	61
Arizona	19	11	6	2	24	56
Vancouver	21	9	6	3	23	69
Calgary	21	9	6	3	23	69
Vegas	20	9	8	3	21	61
San Jose	19	8	9	2	20	59
San Jose	19	8	10	1	17	54
Los Angeles	18	11	9	1	16	62

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

Tuesday's games

Florida 5, Boston 4, SO
Montreal 4, Columbus 2, N
N.Y. Rangers 3, Pittsburgh 2, OT
Colorado 4, Winnipeg 0
Arizona 3, St. Louis 2, OT
Detroit 4, Anaheim 3, OT
Vancouver 5, Nashville 3
Los Angeles 3, Minnesota 1
San Jose 6, Edmonton 3

Wednesday's games

Ottawa 4, Detroit 3
N.Y. Islanders 5, Toronto 4
Washington 2, Philadelphia 1, SO
Chicago 5, Vegas 3
Winnipeg at Florida
Chicago at Tampa Bay
Carolina at Buffalo
Arizona at Minnesota
Colorado at Edmonton
San Jose at Anaheim
Dallas at St. Louis
Detroit at Los Angeles
Pittsburgh at New Jersey
Boston at Toronto
Columbus at Columbus
Montreal at Washington
Philadelphia at Ottawa

Wednesday

Blackhawks 5, Knights 3						
W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Chicago	20	12	2	3	27	79
Florida	18	11	3	4	26	64

Stars 3, Flames 1

W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Dallas	20	14	2	3	27	79
Edmonton	19	11	6	2	26	61
Arizona	19	11	6	2	24	56
Vancouver	21	9	6	3	23	69
Calgary	21	9	6	3	23	69
Vegas	20	9	8	3	21	61
San Jose	19	8	9	2	20	59
San Jose	19	8	10	1	17	54
Los Angeles	18	11	9	1	16	62

Senators 4, Devils 2

W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Ottawa	15	8	10	1	15	52
New Jersey	15	8	10	1	15	52
Washington	20	14	2	3	27	79
Florida	18	11	3	4	26	64
Montreal	18	11	6	4	24	58
Nashville	18	9	4	5	23	67
Chicago	19	10	2	1	21	58
Winnipeg	17	7	9	2	20	68
Colorado	18	7	9	2	19	56
Minnesota	18	7	9	2	19	56

Capitals 2, Flyers 1 (SO)

W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Washington	20	14	2	3	27	79
Philadelphia	18	11	3	4	26	64
Florida	18	11	3	4	26	64
Montreal	18	11	6	4	24	58
Nashville	18	9	4	5	23	67
Chicago	19	10	2	1	21	58
Winnipeg	17	7	9	2	20	68
Colorado	18	7	9	2	19	56
Minnesota	18	7	9	2	19	56

Islanders 5, Maple Leafs 4

W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Toronto	15	8	10	1	15	52
New Jersey	15	8	10	1	15	52
Washington	20	14	2	3	27	79
Florida	18	11	3	4	26	64
Montreal	18	11	6	4	24	58
Nashville	18	9	4	5	23	67
Chicago	19	10	2	1	21	58
Winnipeg	17	7	9	2	20	68
Colorado	18	7	9	2	19	56
Minnesota	18	7	9	2	19	56

Shots on goal

Team	1st	2nd	3rd	Total
Washington	12	10	10	32
Philadelphia	10	8	8	26
Florida	10	8	8	26
Montreal	10	8	8	26
Nashville	10	8	8	26
Chicago	10	8	8	26
Winnipeg	10	8	8	26
Colorado	10	8	8	26
Minnesota	10	8	8	26

Power-play opportunities

Team	1st	2nd	3rd	Total
Washington	1	1	1	3
Philadelphia	1	1	1	3
Florida	1	1	1	3
Montreal	1	1	1	3
Nashville	1	1	1	3
Chicago	1	1	1	3
Winnipeg	1	1	1	3
Colorado	1	1	1	3
Minnesota	1	1	1	3

Top 25 roundup

Louisville rolls over Indiana St.

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Jordan Nwora scored 21 points, Dwayne Sutton added 14 and No. 4 Louisville shot 59% from the field to run past Indiana State 91-62 on Wednesday night.

The Cardinals (3-0) made 14 of their first 17 shots for a 16-point lead through 11 minutes on the way to a 47-26 advantage at the break. Nwora's 14 points, including a pair of threes, got Louisville going, and Sutton had 10 before the break.

Nwora, a junior forward, finished 5-for-10 shooting for his third consecutive game of 20 points or more.

Tyrek Key led the Sycamores (0-2) with 20 points, including four three-pointers.

No. 18 Ohio State 76, No. 10 Villanova 51: Duane Washington Jr. had 14 points and four other players scored in double figures as the host Buckeyes started hot and ran over the Wildcats.

Washington opened the game with a pair of three-pointers to set the tone as Ohio State moved to 3-0 with a significant early season victory.

D.J. Carton and Luther Muhammad each had 11 points, and CJ Walker and Caleb Wesson added 10 apiece.

Jermaine Samuels had 14 points and Cole Swider had 11 for Villanova (1-1).

No. 11 Texas Tech 103, Houston Baptist 74: At Midland, Texas, freshman Jahmi'us Ramsey scored 25 points on 10-for-13 shooting. TJ Holyfield had 21 points on 9 of 10 field goals and the Red Raiders beat the Huskies.

Texas Tech (3-0) had four players scoring in double figures while shooting 60% overall from the field (40-for-67).

Jalon Gates had 21 points with five three-pointers to lead Houston Baptist (0-3), which jumped out to a 9-0 lead before the Red Raiders took over.

VCU 84, No. 23 LSU 82: Marcus Santos-Silva had 17 points and 11 rebounds and the host Rams turned 26 turnovers by the Tigers into 37 points.

VCU (0-0), whose contract with former coach Will Wade managed he bring his new team to the Siegel Center in Richmond or have his school pay \$250,000, improved to 5-2 against ranked opponents on their home court.

LSU (1-0) had a chance after Santos-Silva made one of two free throws with 4.9 seconds left, but Tigers point guard Skylar Mays raced up court and lost control of the ball.

De'Riante Jenkins and Marcus Evans added 15 points each for the Rams.

Mays led the Tigers with 23 points, but also had seven turnovers.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

No. 7 Gophers make strides adapting to Ciarrocca's offense

By Dave Campbell
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — With no game on the schedule the week before Minnesota played Penn State, most of the Gophers coaches hit the road for recruiting.

Kirk Ciarrocca hung back and crafted the game plan to beat a Nittany Lions defense that entered with the second-fewest points allowed in the FBS.

"Kirk loves to be by himself. He got more work done than anybody in the entire building," coach P.J. Fleck said after the 31-26 victory on Saturday, adding: "He loves sitting in his sole, watching film, and it showed."

The Gophers ran the ball 40 times and attempted 20 passes, averaging a robust 7.7 yards per play. They had 24 points in the first half, more than the Nittany Lions had allowed in any of their previous eight games, taking only two sacks for 10 yards and producing just one turnover, a fumble near midfield.

"The kids played great. It always comes down to them," said Ciarrocca, who was announced Wednesday as one of 41 nominees for the Broyles Award, given annually to an outstanding assistant coach in the FBS.

Fleck has given Ciarrocca full responsibility for the play-calling, so he can focus on game management and other responsibilities of being the head coach. Ciarrocca, who has been Fleck's offensive coordinator for the entirety of his career as a head coach — four years at Western Michigan and the last three seasons with Minnesota — said Wednesday that all the praise for shrewd play calls made him "giggle a little bit."

He pinned the progress and success for the Gophers on offense to the players, with quarterback Tanner Morgan, running back Rodney Smith and wide receivers Rashod Bateman and Tyler Johnson being the highest-profile members of a group that is second in the Big Ten with an average of 37.6 points per game, behind only Ohio State.

"That extra time to strategize for Penn State, though, sure helped. ... I love the bye week. Geez, can we get a six-game schedule? That would be tremendous," Ciarrocca said. "It's not like I do the whole game plan myself, even when they're on the road. I'm not letting them off that easy. They're working."

The Gophers (9-0, 6-0) rose all the way to seventh in the Associated Press poll and eighth in the College Football Playoff rankings this week. They have scored at least 28 points in all nine games, a feat never before accomplished in the history of a program that first launched in 1882. They were shut



Minnesota wide receiver Rashod Bateman runs in a touchdown during his team's win Saturday over Penn State. The Gophers (9-0) have scored at least 28 points in every game.



No. 7 Minnesota (9-0)
at No. 23 Iowa (6-3)
AFN-Atlantic
10 p.m. Saturday CET
6 a.m. Sunday JKT

out in the last two games of the 2017 season, a predictably rocky first year for Fleck and his staff.

Ciarrocca, who first worked with Fleck at Rutgers in 2010 when he was the co-offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach and Fleck was the wide receivers coach, almost left Minnesota last winter for West Virginia to join Neal Brown's staff, an emeritus under-40 former colleague of his. Ciarrocca, whose first 23 years as a coach were on the East Coast until he joined Fleck at Western Michigan, decided to stay with a late-night call to Fleck.

"Kirk and I couldn't be more opposites. I'm talking north pole, south pole, and we're standing right in the middle of it, and the only way we can kind of connect is by looking straight down through the core of the earth. But we complement each other really well. He taught me so much when I worked for him. Not only just the football, but how to work for someone."

Ciarrocca clearly has no regrets about staying in Minnesota. "I don't think I've ever not seen him in the offensive staff room watching film," said Morgan.



Baylor cornerback Jameson Houston, left, locks down TCU running back Darius Anderson. The undefeated No. 12 Bears have only given up more than 20 points once this season in regulation.

No. 12 Baylor hopes vaunted defense can bear No. 10 Oklahoma's offense

By Stephen Hawkins
Associated Press

There was a moment when Baylor coach Matt Rhule saw his No. 12 Bears start to fracture just a little bit for the first time in this undefeated season. Understandably frustrated, defensive players were yelling at some of the offensive guys.

That was during halftime of their last game, down 9-0 after TCU had kicked two field goals in the final half-minute before the break. It was nine days after the Bears had won their previous game when scoring fewer than 20 points — the first time they had done that in 13 years.

"We're a family, and families fight," linebacker Terrel Bernard said. "I don't think it was that we were cracking. We wanted them to move the ball and wanted them to score so bad. ... But, I mean, you see in the second half that we came together and played complementary football. That's what it takes to win."

Baylor (9-0, 6-0) Big 12, No. 13 CFP) has certainly gotten defensive and just in time: The Bears host four-time defending league champion Oklahoma (8-1, 5-1, No. 10 CFP) in a potential Big 12 championship game preview Saturday night. The No. 10 Sooners lead the nation with 587 total yards and are second with 48.4 points per game.

Known for high-scoring, big-play offenses — especially during the 2011 Heisman Trophy-winning season by Robert Griffin III and then when winning their only two Big 12 titles in 2013 and 2014 — the Bears now have one of the league's top defenses.

"We love to have the thing on



No. 10 Oklahoma (8-1)
at No. 12 Baylor (9-0)
AFN-Sports
1:30 a.m. Sunday CET
9:30 a.m. Sunday JKT

our back, the pressure, the momentum, all that, so we can go win the game," said senior linebacker Jordan Williams. "It's been crazy to see how the defense has come out there when our backs are against the wall, all odds against us, and we just play."

The Bears lead the Big 12, allowing only 19 points a game, and are second at 337 total yards a game — drastically improved after giving up 32 points and 426 yards a game last season.

"They're an old defense. I mean they have a lot of guys that have played a lot of snaps," Oklahoma coach Lincoln Riley said. "And they've moved a few pieces around, and those look like things have gone well for them."

Bernard switched from outside to middle linebacker after senior Clay Johnston suffered a season-ending knee injury when making an interception against Texas Tech a month ago. Johnston had 58 tackles, 28 more than any other Bears player at the time.

After 19 tackles against TCU, Bernard is now the leading tackler with 68. He is still the only player with more than Johnston, but nine other players have at

least 27 tackles. Fourteen players have contributed to the Bears' league-leading 29 sacks.

TCU didn't score in the second half last Saturday, and the Bears won 29-23 in triple overtime. Redshirt freshman John Mayers kicked a 51-yard field goal in the final minute of regulation for a 9-9 tie before Charlie Brewer accounted for three OT touchdowns — a run and two passes to Denzel Mims. Baylor's defense held the Horned Frogs out of the end zone in the third overtime even after they had first down from the 1.

"I just think that at the end of the game, they all came together, and I think they learned something as a team," Rhule said. "Just keep playing."

Defensive tackle Bravvion Roy, who blocked a late field-goal attempt by West Virginia in a 17-14 win, has been limited with nagging issues. Grayland Arnold, still not 100% after missing a game last month, had the clinching interception against the Frogs. Senior starting safety Chris Miller, an NFL prospect, missed the TCU game because of an automatic one-game suspension for a third targeting penalty.

"We don't want to be one of those programs that make excuses, we don't want to talk about, 'Oh well we would've played well except we lost this guy or that guy,'" Rhule said. "We expect everyone to go out there and play at a high level. I think it comes from our players, the way we practice, we practice the 1s and 2s, equal reps. We have high standards. We practice the 3s. ... You can be a guy pretty far down the depth chart early in the season, and then we can be counting on you."

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

ACC teams racking up the sacks

By WILL GRAVES
Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Each week, the Pittsburgh coaching staff jobs down a number representing the amount of sacks they'd like the Panthers to have during a given game. Sophomore defensive lineman Jaylen Twyman would prefer to keep the number a secret.

Not because it's so ambitious it's almost impossible to reach. Quite the opposite.

"It's too low," Twyman said. "We aim for the stars. Me myself, I don't set goals because I'm trying to break the bank."

No team in the Atlantic Coast Conference is cashing in more than the Panthers. Pitt is averaging 4.44 sacks per game, second in the country only to Ohio State. The Panthers are quick, belligerent and relentless. They're hardly the only ones in the sack-happy ACC, where six teams rank in the top 20 nationally in taking down the quarterback, the most of any Power Five conference.

The defense-oriented Big Ten has four schools in the top 10. The Big 12 and SEC just one a piece. The pass-centric Pac 12? None.

"We throw the ball a lot in this league," North Carolina coach Mack Brown said. "And I think there's a lot of better teams in this league than perceived because a lot of them are so much alike that so many games are coming down to the end."

Asked if the common thread in the ACC is great coaching, Pitt's Pat Narduzzi — who developed a reputation as one of the most aggressive defensive coordinators in the country during his tenure at Michigan State before becoming the head coach at Pitt nearly five years ago — shook his head.

"It takes players," Narduzzi said. "It takes a secondary. It takes (everything). There's coverage sacks. We've talked every week. It's a combination of whatever."



KEITH SHRAKOCIA/AP

Pittsburgh defensive lineman Jaylen Twyman, right, sacks Ohio quarterback Nathan Rourke. Twyman has seven sacks for the Panthers, who are one of six ACC teams in the top 20 nationally in sacks.

It's also a necessity in a league that's spent the better part of a decade trying to find ways to keep pace with Clemson.

For all the high-profile offensive talent the defending national champion Tigers have produced during their rise to prominence, they've become a factory for NFL-ready pass rushers, players who cut their teeth by devouring ACC quarterbacks at an alarming rate. Clemson sent four defensive linemen — Clelin Ferrell, Christian Wilkins, Dexter Lawrence and Austin Bryant — to the pros just last spring, with Ferrell, Wilkins and Lawrence all going in the top 17 picks of the draft.

The unbeatens Tigers have dropped off a bit this season — they're 20th nationally but only sixth in the conference after leading the country with 54 in 2018 — but remain the gold standard. Regularly landing some of the most talented high school players in the country helps, but Clemson defensive coordinator Brent Venables stressed success doesn't just stem from having good raw material to work with.

"Hey, man, getting there is really hard," Venables said. "Finishing, that's even harder. Too many guys, they take one hand off the wheel. You've done all the hard work, now finish. There's certainly an art to the finish as well."

An art the Panthers have made

an effort to refine during Narduzzi's four-plus seasons on the job. Pitt rode a tireless running game and a solid if not spectacular defense to its first ACC Coastal Division title last year. The Panthers remain a threat to repeat — a rarity in the wide-open Coastal — thanks in large part to a defensive front that has become dominant despite losing starters Rashad Weaver and Keyshon Camp to season-ending injuries. Weaver went down in August and Camp followed after getting hurt during a loss to Virginia on Aug. 31.

Yet Pitt has kept on coming thanks to the rapid maturity of a group that includes Patrick Jones II and Twyman, players who hardly look like backups.

They've combined for 14 sacks (seven each) while playing with a tenacity that belies their even-keeled personas. Twyman always believed this level of production was coming. It's why he asked to switch from No. 55 to No. 97 last spring, the same number worn by former Pitt star and two-time NFL defensive player of the year Aaron Donald of the Los Angeles Rams.

"A lot of people back at home, my coaches ask me, 'That's a lot of pressure,'" said Twyman, a native of Washington, D.C. "I was like, 'Pressure only busts pipes or makes diamonds.' And that's what our whole defense lives on. We love the pressure."

Young to miss one more game

Star DE will return for Ohio State's showdowns with Penn St., Michigan

By MITCH STACY
Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ohio State star defensive end Chase Young will be held out of one more game as punishment for breaking NCAA rules by accepting a personal loan.

The penalty was announced by Ohio State in a statement Wednesday. The school had sought immediate reinstatement from the NCAA.

The situation worked out as well as it could have for the second-ranked Buckeyes. Young, a preseason All-American and the nation's leader in sacks, was held out of the 73-14 road game of Maryland last week and will miss Saturday's game against 50-point underdog Rutgers.

He'll return for showdowns with No. 9 Penn State and No. 14 Michigan to end the regular season.

Ohio State announced the day before its game with Maryland that Young would be held out amid concerns he violated NCAA rules by taking a loan last year from someone he describes as a "family friend" for living expenses. Young explained his "mistake" in a tweet and said the loan had been paid back.

Ohio State athletic director Gene Smith said the violation was reported to the university on Oct. 27, the day after the Buckeyes beat Wisconsin and Young's dynamic four-sack performance inserted him into the Heisman Trophy conversation.

Young was confronted with the report and cooperated with the university's investigation. Smith declined to comment on whether Chase knew at the time that borrowing the money was an NCAA violation.

Ohio State submitted its report on Tuesday. The university had asked for a single-game suspension but decided not to appeal the NCAA's ruling that Young sit out two games.

Young tweeted in response to the decision on Wednesday. "Excited to be back on the field next week! Thank you Buckeye Nation for all the love and support."

Young has been practicing with the team all week and will continue to do so.



Young

After ending Top 25 drought, Indiana chasing new goals

By MICHAEL MAROT
Associated Press

Cosch Tom Allen walked into Indiana's team meeting Monday and congratulated his players for ending one streak.

He quickly urged them to start a new one.

One day after No. 24 Indiana cracked the Top 25 for the first time in more than a quarter-century, the Hoosiers spent some time talking about what needs to be done so they can stick around a while.

"This is something we live for," senior receiver Donovan Hale said. "This is why we came to Indiana, to try to change the program. We've got players that are super hungry and want to create change."

Clearly, the Hoosiers (7-2, 4-2 Big Ten) have gone a long way toward doing that with this season's resume.

They've won seven games for the first time since 2007. They've won four straight conference games for the first time since 1993. They won at Nebraska for the first time since 1985. And now they've shed the dubious distinction of going the longest time between rankings among Power Five conference schools.

Indiana last appeared in the Top 25 on Sept. 20, 1994. That weekend, the 25th-ranked Hoosiers lost 62-13 at No. 16 Wisconsin and didn't return to the rankings until Sunday, the longest stint between rankings now belongs to rival Purdue, which hasn't been in the Top 25 since 2007.

Allen never doubted it was possible but he needed to set smaller goals, first.

After taking over as the Hoosiers' defensive coordinator in 2016, Allen set a seemingly unthinkable goal for the program — creating a top-tier defense. When



**No. 24 Indiana (7-2)
at No. 9 Penn State (8-1)**
AFN-Sports
6 p.m. Saturday CET
2 a.m. Sunday JKT

Allen was promoted to head coach before the 2016 bowl game, he told everyone he believed the Hoosiers should be a Top 25 program.

But after finishing 5-7 in each of his first two seasons as head coach then losing starting quarterback Michael Penix Jr. to a series of injuries this season, the doubters figured the breakthrough year would be put on hold.

Allen never wavered, confi-

dently explaining to players they could make it this year.

"I told our team in fall camp I thought they were a Top 25 team," Allen said. "I'm sure nobody else would've even have said that but we said that in the privacy of our meetings. I told them that. I believed it. I just said, 'Guys, you're doing what I expected you to do.'"

Now the goals must be adjusted again.

Allen expects his team to prove it's earned its ranking and can climb even higher as the Hoosiers try to add other achievements this season.

Suddenly, reaching the top 20 for the first time since 1993 or the top 15 for the first time since October 1988 seems realistic — if the Hoosiers upset No. 9 Penn State (8-1, 5-1) on Saturday.

"Just because you get ranked one week, doesn't mean all of a sudden you've arrived," Allen said. "We want to build off the

successes we've had this year and get growing and getting better, realizing we have a lot of hard work ahead of us."

Indiana also understands history is not on its side.

The Hoosiers are 0-10 all-time at State College and have lost 37 consecutive games against top 10 foes since a 31-10 victory at No. 9 Ohio State in October 1987. But few expected the Hoosiers to be here, snapping their Top 25 drought, after they were 3-2 in late September.

And now, while others around campus talk about bowl positioning and the possibility of playing in a January bowl game for the first time in school history, the Hoosiers are focused on just winning.

"We've got a lot more things we want to do, a lot more things for this football team to accomplish," Allen said. "Our head is down. We're working every single day."

MLB

Crisis mode

Sign stealing charges latest to tarnish Astros' reputation

By KRISTIE RIEKEN
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Not too long ago, the Houston Astros were the feel-good story of baseball. Led by their diminutive Venezuelan dynamo and featuring smart play on the field and in the front office, they emerged from a morass of awful seasons that got them mocked as the "Lardos" and ascended to the top of the big league galaxy as World Series champions.

That picture of the sheer joy as the Astros celebrated their 2017 crown at Dodger Stadium sure looks different now.

Fresh off a bitter Game 7 loss in its bid for another title, and tarnished by an executive's clubhouse rant at executive reporters and the failed attempt to smear the journalist who wrote about the scene, the franchise is now embroiled in a new scandal: allegations with on-the-record comments from a former player the Astros turned to technology to devise a sign-stealing scheme during the greatest season.

Sign stealing may be as old as baseball. From a clandestine buzzer-and-spyglass system the New York Giants invented to overtake the Brooklyn Dod-

gers in their famed 1951 pennant race, to the Boston Red Sox being fined two years ago for a high-tech play using an Apple Watch to pilfer catcher's signals by the Yankees, cheating is engrained in the game's lore going back to the day of spitballs.

Getting close to the line, or even crossing it, has long been a part of sports — witness the suspicions that have followed the New England Patriots during their dynasty.

But the Astros are under scrutiny for how they're said to have gotten around the rules. And it's just one of many ways the team has landed in the news for the wrong reasons in recent years.

The negative backlash includes sign-stealing clouds in the past and an episode this season when the team improperly barred a reporter from the clubhouse. It led, too, to some fans taking to social media this October to say they'd turned against rooting for the Astros.

Major League Baseball is now investigating the Astros after The Athletic website reported the team stole signs during home games in 2017 by using a camera positioned in center field at Minute Maid Park. Tuesday's report



MATT YORK/AP

Houston Astros general manager Jeff Luhnow speaks during a media availability Tuesday during the Major League Baseball general managers annual meetings in Scottsdale, Ariz.

quoted pitcher Mike Fiers, who played for the Astros that season, and three other unidentified people with the club.

The Astros won the World Series that year — two sources told The Athletic that Houston used the system into the playoffs while another source said the system ended before the postseason. Using cameras and technology to swipe signs is prohibited by MLB.

On Tuesday, Houston general manager Jeff Luhnow refused to discuss any specifics.

"We take the allegation seriously and we're going to look into it," he said at the GM meetings in Arizona. "If you're not following the rules, it's a serious matter. I'm not going to get into exactly what I knew or anybody knew at this point. So I'm just going to have to wait and see. But I'm sure there will be an appropriate time to an-

swer that question directly."

This comes after the team was already under investigation by MLB for the clubhouse incident. Assistant general manager Brandon Taubman was fired for directing inappropriate comments at female reporters, including one wearing a domestic violence bracelet, during a locker room celebration after the team beat the New York Yankees to win the AL pennant on Oct. 19.

Second: Verlander's teammate Cole made great case for Cy Young

FROM BACK PAGE

fastball. He's thinking about using weighted balls and other new-age throwing techniques.

"I will always try to push the boundaries of what I can do," Verlander said. "If my body says, 'Hold on, you can't do that anymore,' then I'll pull back."

The case between Verlander and Cole was tight. Cole had more strikeouts (326) and a lower ERA (2.50), but Verlander threw 10½ more innings and won more games.

They are the first set of teammates to finish 1-2 in AL voting — it happened five times in the NL.

Verlander and Cole pitched Houston to the World Series, where Cole continued to dominate while Verlander faltered. The right-hander lost twice to the champion Washington Nationals — a letdown not factored in voting that concluded before the postseason began.

He's hoping to take another run at a title — with Cole — next season.

"I know that Gerrit had a great time playing here and I know he would like to return, if possible," Verlander said. "But that is now on Gerrit and his family and people above me."

Tampa Bay Rays righty Charlie Morton finished third a year after leaving Houston in free agency.

deGrom is in special company as a repeat NL winner, joining Koufax, Greg Maddux, Randy Johnson, Tim Lincecum, Clayton Kershaw and Max Scherzer.

"It was a dream to play this game and



MATT SLOCUM/AP

Astros starter Gerrit Cole, above, had more strikeouts (326) than AL Cy Young Award winner Justin Verlander and a lower ERA (2.50) in finishing second to his teammate.

a dream to win one Cy Young," deGrom said. "To win back to back was a goal. It's hard to explain. You set these goals, but it almost doesn't feel real yet."

The 31-year-old led the NL with 255 strikeouts and posted a 2.43 ERA. His resumé was bolstered by his durability — deGrom totaled 204 innings, compared to 182½ for runner-up Hyun-Jin Ryu and 172½ for Scherzer, the Nationals ace who

finished third. A year after taking the award despite just 10 victories — fewest ever by a starting pitcher — deGrom earned 11 wins with a Mets team that's struggled to support him.

After signing a \$137.5 million, five-year deal to remain with New York shortly before opening day, deGrom wasn't so dominant early in the season. He got hit around

AL Cy Young voting						
Total points on a 7-6-3-2-1 basis						
Player	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	Tot
Verlander, Astros	17	13	—	—	—	171
Cole, Astros	13	17	—	—	—	159
Morton, Rays	—	—	18	10	1	75
Bieber, Indians	—	—	11	13	5	64
Lynn, Rangers	—	—	3	12	15	32
Rodriguez, Red Sox	—	—	—	3	2	8
Giolito, White Sox	—	—	—	1	2	8
Minor, Rangers	—	—	—	1	1	2

NL Cy Young voting						
Total points on a 7-6-3-2-1 basis						
Player	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	Tot
deGrom, Mets	29	1	—	—	—	207
Ryu, Dodgers	1	10	8	7	3	72
Scherzer, Nationals	—	8	6	6	4	72
Flaherty, Cardinals	—	—	11	—	4	69
Strasburg, Nationals	—	6	11	9	8	53
Soroka, Braves	—	—	1	—	6	9
Gray, Reds	—	—	—	1	4	4
Kershaw, Dodgers	—	—	1	—	—	3
Buehler, Dodgers	—	—	—	—	—	2
Yates, Padres	—	—	—	1	—	2
Corbin, Nationals	—	—	—	—	1	1

in April and May, even allowing seven runs in an outing against the last-place Marlins.

The embarrassment in Miami was a wake-up call for the gritty deGrom. Following that loss, he went 8-3 with a 1.89 ERA over his final 23 starts. deGrom wrapped up the season with 23 consecutive scoreless innings.

"I feel like I was trying to better what I did in 2018," he said, adding "I think that was something I struggled with to start this year, was kind of dwelling on what happened last year. Kind of not focusing on the task ahead as much as I probably should have."

NFL

Ready to COOK

Minnesota RB's blend of speed, power, and vision is a recipe for success

By BRIAN HALL
Associated Press

EAGAN, Minn.

Tackling Dalvin Cook has been a challenge this season. The Minnesota Vikings running back has vaulted to the top of the league's rushing list while leaving behind a trail of defenders who have either bounced off his 5-foot-10, 210-pound frame or simply been left in his wake.

How has Cook made so many defenders miss? It's

'He just has that extra gear.'

Mike Zimmer
Vikings coach,
on RB Dalvin Cook

due as much to his mind as his unusual blend of speed and strength.

"I just take a picture before I get the ball in my hands and kind of see what type of leverage he's giving me," Cook said. "I kind of put myself in place to break those tackles before I even get the ball in my hand."

The Vikings (7-3) have relied on a balanced offense to win five of their past six games heading into Sunday, when they host Denver. Cook leads the NFL in rushing yards and total yards from scrimmage, putting himself in the conversation about the MVP award.

This is the type of productivity the Vikings envisioned when they made Cook their second-round draft pick in 2017. Healthy now and enjoying a heavy workload to go with it, Cook has finally been able to showcase his talent.

After Sunday's 183 yards against Dallas, Cook now has a league-leading total of 1,415 yards. He leads the NFL with 991 rushing yards and is tied for second in total touchdowns with 10. He is one of only four players since 1948 to accumulate at least 950 rushing yards, 400 receiving yards and 10 rushing touchdowns through the first 10 games of the season, along with Todd Gurley (2018), LaDainian Tomlinson (2006) and Priest Holmes (2002). Tomlinson was the NFL MVP in 2006.

Cook has been perfect for former Broncos coach Gary Kubiak's system, who serves as an adviser for offensive coordinator Kevin Stefanski. Since Stefanski took over the play calling in the third-to-last game last season, Cook has a league-high 1,746 scrimmage yards, 1,239 rushing yards and 12 touchdowns in 13 games.

"I always knew that he was a terrific runner," Vikings coach Mike Zimmer said. "He just has that extra gear."

Minnesota Vikings running back Dalvin Cook

MICHAEL ANSWORTH/AP



Injuries slow once-reliable Rams O-line

By GREG BEACHAM
Associated Press

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. — The Los Angeles Rams scored nearly 33 points per game last season during one of the most impressive 16-game offensive performances in NFL history with a stout, durable line leading the way.

When the defending NFC champions returned this year, their only significant personnel changes happened on the line, which had been a model of stability and consistency during coach Sean McVay's first two seasons.

Nothing has been the same this fall for McVay and the Rams (5-4). They are outsiders in the playoff picture after losing four of their past six games, and most observers think a mediocre offensive line has been the biggest reason for the downturn.

And after adding two new starting line-men in the offseason and losing both to injuries in recent weeks, the line is undergoing major changes again this week before a visit from the Chicago Bears (4-5).

"It's a little bit of a roller coaster with everybody going down and getting banged up," said Austin Blythe, the Rams' new starting center. "Juggling positions is part of the league, part of being a professional, and especially on the offensive line. We'll try to handle it to the best of our ability."

With center Brian Allen out for the year and right tackle Rob Havenstein down for at least two weeks after getting hurt last week in Pittsburgh, the Rams will block for Todd Gurley and protect Jared Goff with four starters in new or almost-new positions on the line.

Blythe is moving from right guard to center, where he has practiced regularly, but barely played since college. Untested rookie Bobby Evans is likely to start at right tackle after getting three offensive snaps of action in the Rams' first nine games.

The Rams' starting guards probably will be rookie David Edwards, who has three games of experience, and Austin Corbett, who made his debut for the team last week.

Edwards played left guard for the Rams in his first two games, but switched to right guard last week in Pittsburgh — only to move to right tackle after Havenstein injured his knee during the game.

He still has more NFL experience than Corbett, who only arrived in a trade with Cleveland a few weeks ago when Joe Noteboom went down with a knee injury. Even after playing in last week's injury emergency, Corbett has just 78 offensive snaps.

"It's tough sometimes when you don't have guys that have game experience," left tackle Andrew Whitworth said. "There's going to be some growing pains there in general."

The Rams' line wasn't really impressing anybody even before it lost three Week 1 starters to injuries. Gurley is having an unproductive season, while Goff's time in the pocket has appeared to shrink in recent weeks — but neither skill-position star has complained.

"It's not always going to be perfect back there," Goff said. "And if it's not, I'll be just fine. It's part of the job description."



McVay

SPORTS



One more game
Ohio State's Young must sit this week, too » **College football, Page 29**



MATT SLOCUM, ABOVE, AND KATHY WILLEMS, RIGHT/AP

Above: Houston Astros starting pitcher Justin Verlander led the majors with 21 victories this season and reached 3,000 career strikeouts in his final start of the regular season. He also threw a no-hitter, his third, and reached 300 strikeouts in a season for the first time, earning his second AL Cy Young Award. **Right:** New York Mets starter Jacob deGrom won the NL Cy Young Award for the second straight year.

MLB

2-timers

Verlander, deGrom score second Cy Young Awards

By JAKE SEINER
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Justin Verlander has a second AL Cy Young Award — and a clear path paved toward Cooperstown.

Verlander beat out Houston Astros teammate Gerrit Cole in balloting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America revealed Wednesday night. Verlander got 17 first-place votes to 13 for Cole, who became a free agent after the season.

Mets ace Jacob deGrom won the NL prize for the second straight year. He received 29 of 30 first-place votes, becoming the 11th pitcher to win Cy Youngs in consecutive years. He and Verlander are the 20th and 21st players to win the award multiple times.

The 36-year-old Verlander won his first Cy Young in 2011 with Detroit, when he was also named MVP. Since then, he'd been a runner-up three times.

"The adversity I went through puts a new perspective on everything," he said. "I mean, still would've liked to have won a couple of them."

Verlander continued a marvelous second act to his career since a 2017 trade from Detroit to Houston. He led the majors with 21 victories and padded his Hall of Fame résumé by getting his 3,000th strikeout in his final start of the regular season. He also reached 300 punchouts in a season for the first time.

Verlander — no-hit Toronto on Sept. 1, becoming the sixth pitcher with three no-hitters in a career. He joined a group that includes Hall of Famers Nolan Ryan, Sandy Koufax, Bob Feller and Cy Young, along with 1880s pitcher Larry Corcoran.

Forget about slowing down — Verlander's goal this offseason is to add velocity to his top-end

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Harden helps lead Rockets past Clippers

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