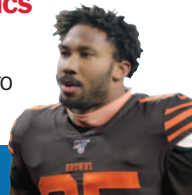


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CONTINGENCY EDITION

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Free to Deployed Areas



Where
jets
go to **rest**

Aircraft boneyard keeps military planes for parts, possible reuse

By HENRY BREAN
Arizona Daily Star

TUCSON, Ariz. — As boneyards go, this place is pretty lively.

Before many Tucsonans have even started their morning commute, a pair of aircraft mechanics are already crouched over the open cockpit of an F-18 fighter jet, disarming the ejector seat and removing the explosives.

Nearby, a towing crew pulls a Navy P-3 anti-submarine aircraft over to the "flush farm" to be drained of its fuel. Then they hook up to a different F-18 and haul it to the "wash rack" for perhaps the last thorough cleaning it will ever get.

Meanwhile, about a mile away, a small army of specialty painters fans out to spray protective coating on row after row of mothballed C-130 transport planes.

Above: F-16 Fighting Falcons sit in a field at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson, Ariz. What amounts to a huge dirt parking lot is where thousands of U.S. military aircraft go to die. Some go slowly as valuable parts are removed over time for use on other aircraft still in the air. Others are put back into duty.

PHOTOS BY MATT YORK/AP



Farewell messages written by the final crew are shown throughout the cockpit of a C-5 Galaxy cargo plane stored at the boneyard.

Welcome to a typical morning at the 309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group, Tucson's most famous parking lot with roughly \$34 billion worth of military might.

The people who work here generally refer to the place by its acronym, or "A-marg" as they call it. Most everyone else — here and around the globe — knows it as the airplane graveyard, or simply the boneyard.

But that nickname only tells part of the story.

Though the boneyard at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base is the final destination for most of the warplanes that end up there, some do return to the sky.

In May, AMARG restored a B-52 bomber to active duty after more than a decade in storage. Now workers at the facility are preparing dozens of retired F-16 fighter jets to fly again, this time as full-sized, "drone" aerial targets piloted by remote control.

They also help get surplus military machines ready for delivery to U.S. allies, like the six helicopters sent to Greece earlier this year and five more to be sold to Israel.

"Any day that you come here, there's a really wide variety of things we could be working on," says Air Force Col. Jennifer Barnard, now in her third year as group commander.

SEE BONEYARD ON PAGE 3

TRUMP HEARING

Former envoy details threat she felt after being ousted

By LISA MASCARO
AND MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Former U.S. Ukraine Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch provided chilling detail Friday of the threat she felt upon suddenly being ousted from her post and learning President Donald Trump had denounced her in his phone call with Ukraine's president.

In that July call, Trump assailed her as "bad news" and said she was "going to go through some things."

In an extraordinary moment at the hearing, Trump went after her again as she spoke, tweeting that everywhere she served had "turned bad." He emphasized that as president he had the "absolute right" to appoint his own ambassadors.

Rather than distract from the career diplomat's somber but powerful testimony, Trump's interference could provide more evidence against him in the probe.

"It's very intimidating," Yovanovitch said when Trump's new tweet was shown on a screen in the hearing room. "I can't speak to what the president is trying to do, but I think the effect is to be intimidated."

Democrats strongly agreed.

"I want you to know that some of us here take witness intimidation very, very seriously," said Rep. Adam Schiff, Intelligence Committee chairman who displayed Trump's attack.

During the second day of public hearings in the impeachment inquiry, Yovanovitch described a "smear campaign" against her by Trump's personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, and others, including the president's son, Donald Trump Jr., before her firing.

SEE OUSTED ON PAGE 6

MILITARY

‘I was a Marine and this is how they treat me’

Police knew vet was a US citizen, but ICE detained him regardless

By ALEX HORTON
The Washington Post

Six years after his combat service in Afghanistan, Jilmar Ramos-Gomez sat in an immigrant detention center in Michigan, contemplating how a U.S. citizen and war veteran could get sucked into a Kafkaesque deportation void.

It started with an off-duty police captain watching the evening news featuring Ramos-Gomez's arrest, speculating if the veteran, Michigan born and bred, was in the country illegally.

Those suspicions triggered a decision by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to detain him for three days, despite immediate evidence that proved Ramos-Gomez was a citizen, including police reviewing his passport the day of his arrest.

Nearly a year later, the Grand Rapids city commission on Tuesday unanimously agreed to award Ramos-Gomez \$190,000 in a settlement over the wrongful detainment, his family's attorney Richard Kessler told The Washington Post.

The city did not admit fault in the settlement. But the amount indicates "they know they did something wrong," Kessler said Thursday.

The incident was another thread in a national debate on whether police departments should work with federal immigration authorities. Advocates of sanctuary

cities say doing so makes victims and witnesses fearful of cooperation with police.

Kessler and civil rights groups said authorities targeted Ramos-Gomez for his Latino origins and believe the circumstances surrounding his arrest stemmed from post-traumatic stress due to his service in Afghanistan. He served as a tank crewman there in 2013, earning a combat action ribbon.

"He fought on the battlefield and came back scarred. And instead of honoring him, ICE tried to deport him," Miriam Aukerman, the senior staff attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan, told The Post.

Emails and texts between Grand Rapids police and ICE officials, obtained and published by the ACLU, reveal a barrage of misuses, miscommunication and avoidance of evidence that could have stopped ICE's involvement from the very beginning.

Ramos-Gomez, now 28, was arrested for trespassing in a secure area of Spectrum Health Butterworth Hospital on Nov. 21. He set a fire and pulled an alarm.

He was not a patient at the hospital, Kessler said, but he was struggling with post-traumatic stress at the time and accessed a helipad on the roof.

Body-cam video shows police immediately knew he was a U.S. citizen. He had his passport with him during the arrest, and the



Courtesy of Richard Kessler

Marine Jilmar Ramos-Gomez served as a tank crewman in Afghanistan in 2013.

video shows an officer holding it open while taking notes.

But that night, after police had already determined Ramos-Gomez was a citizen, his name and booking photo surfaced on local news.

Grand Rapids Police Capt. Curtis VanderKooi, off-duty at the time and not part of the investigation, took notice.

"Could you please check his status?" VanderKooi, the department's ICE liaison, wrote to an ICE officer in an email that evening, according to police documents.

Two days later, the officer responds to VanderKooi, saying he interviewed Ramos-Gomez and that "he is a foreign national illegally in the U.S."

Eight days after Ramos-Gomez's arrest, on Nov. 29, VanderKooi emailed the agent and police investigator Adam Baylis with an update, which included a police report that references a passport. VanderKooi's subject line included the word "loco," the

Spanish word for crazy, in reference to Ramos-Gomez.

Kent County Assistant Prosecutor Daniel Helmer was perplexed in the email exchange.

"I am confused. Didn't his property have a US Passport in it? And he was a veteran?" Helmer wrote.

"Who knows," Baylis replied, "not sure it was a US passport ... I am not sure about the vet thing."

Ramos-Gomez was held at Kent County Jail until Dec. 14, when he was slated for release after pleading guilty to a misdemeanor trespassing charge, Kessler said. A judge ordered him released on his own recognizance. But he didn't go free. ICE agents led Ramos-Gomez away in shackles, Kessler said, beginning a three-day confinement in ICE custody.

Ramos-Gomez's mother contacted Kessler in a panic. Kessler contacted ICE and showed them supporting documents.

"They very much admitted he was a U.S. citizen," he said. But the ordeal left the family outraged and Ramos-Gomez shaken.

"He said, 'I can't believe it, I was a Marine and this is how they treat me,'" Kessler said.

ICE later said Ramos-Gomez "claimed in verbal statements to be a foreign national illegally present in the U.S."

The agency declined to say why they did not consider other evidence to the contrary. Aukerman and Kessler dispute that admission even occurred.

City Attorney Anita Hitchcock said the settlement was not an admission of liability but "a resolution of a disputed claim."

VanderKooi served a 20-hour

suspension for his conduct in the referral, The Associated Press reported. Sgt. John Witkowski, a spokesman for the department, said he is the commander of investigations.

VanderKooi told investigators his initial reason for contacting ICE was a concern Ramos-Gomez's trespassing could have terrorism implications.

Aukerman and Kessler dismissed that as a retroactive defense, noting he focused his efforts with an agent that works on deportations rather than HSI, the agency's criminal investigations unit. Before VanderKooi got involved, an officer texted an ICE agent and described the arrest incident as "Vet, PTSD, But not a FBI issue."

There was no formal policy in communicating referrals with ICE at the time, Witkowski said, when officers relied on back channels with agents.

A department policy enacted in August, in response to fallout from this and other incidents, allows checks on immigration status only in relevant investigations and when approved by the chief. The measure was added to "foster trust" between police and immigrant communities.

While Aukerman was heartened by the settlement, she said the incident revealed larger issues within the department and the very nature of how police work with federal immigration agents.

"ICE had lots of evidence he was a U.S. citizen, and they didn't bother to look at it," she said. "It shows a real callous disregard of rights of anyone who gets into the immigration system."

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MILITARY

American F-4 jet nears end of its service

By SLOBODAN LEKIC

Stars and Stripes

It epitomized U.S. air power during the Cold War, was used extensively by the U.S. in Vietnam and was still in active service decades later. But now, the iconic F-4 Phantom II fighter-bomber is flying into the sunset.

Only a few dozen Phantoms remain in active service around the world out of 5,195 built during a 20-year production run that started in the 1950s. The American ones, flown by the Air Force, Navy and Marines, are all gone, many of them having been shot down in their final role as target-practice drones. Those still in use by foreign air forces are slated for retirement in the near future.

With a top speed exceeding Mach 2.2, the supersonic, long-range fighter-bomber is still remembered fondly, particularly by those who flew it.

The F-4 was "in the hands of a talented pilot and weapons systems operator ... formidable and nearly indestructible," said retired Air Force Gen. Ronald Keys, who flew Phantoms in Vietnam in 1969-70.

The plane was a "true multi-role platform" that "played a big part" in numerous conflicts, said Alan Warnes, an editor and writer with the U.K.-based Air Forces Monthly publication.

"In Vietnam the F-4C was the U.S. Air Force's primary air defense cover ... At the height of the Cold War in Europe, the Phantom was everywhere — there were over 1,000" serving the West German, British and U.S. air forces, Warnes said.



SAMUEL ROGERS/U.S. Air Force

Gen. Ronald E. Keys, head of Air Combat Command, and Lt. Col. J.D. Lee fly an F-4 Phantom II on Sept. 28, 2007, during the final flight of Keys' 40-year military career.

Phantoms also were used extensively by the Israelis in several wars with Arab states until replaced by F-15s and F-16s in the 1980s. They performed very well against their Soviet-equipped Arab foes.

Soviet-built MiG-21s were the Phantom's main foe throughout the Cold War. Compared to the diminutive MiG, which could carry 4,400 pounds of ordnance, the Phantom was able to load a whopping 18,000 pounds of munitions, including bombs, air-to-ground and air-to-air missiles, on nine underwing hardpoints. One of the more flattering nicknames given to the Phantom over the years was "the world's leading distributor of MiG parts."

The Phantom was officially retired

from squadron duty in the U.S. in 1996, five years after it flew combat missions in Iraq during Operation Desert Storm. But it found a second life, with hundreds of the fighter-bombers being converted into full-scale target drones that were used to train pilots in air-to-air combat and test munitions.

The last conversion rolled off the production line in 2013.

Three years later, the Air Force held a final flight ceremony for the Phantom at Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico, marking the end of nearly 60 years of U.S. service.

Today, Greece, Turkey, Iran, South Korea and Japan are the last operators of

the aircraft. With the exception of Iran, all of the countries that still fly Phantoms are actively looking to replace them with more up-to-date airframes.

Even in Iran, which Washington sold 225 F-4s to in the 1970s, the fleet of still-airworthy Phantoms is expected to shrink in the next few years due to increasing maintenance problems as the planes grow older. The U.S. blocked deliveries of spare parts and maintenance support to Iran for the planes after the 1979 Islamic Revolution, but about 50 of Iran's Phantoms are still flying, largely because the Iranians have cannibalized parts from other planes, and smuggled in or reverse-engineered others.

Even in its heyday, the F-4 had its issues, including "cockpit visibility, engines that smoked (excessively), the best turning machine, first generation radar technology," said Keys, who flew the Phantom out of Da Nang Air Base in Vietnam. "Compared to something like the F-15 Eagle, F-16 Viper, F-22 or F-35, it was pretty much analog watch technology compared to AI and digitalization."

Throughout its decades of service, detractors have also poked fun at the Phantom for its less-than-sleek appearance and other shortcomings, giving it unflattering nicknames such as the Flying Anvil and Old Smokey.

As flies into the sunset, a joke about the design's emphasis on power will be remembered by both its fans and detractors: The F-4 was proof that even a brick could fly, giving a sufficiently powerful engine.

lekic.slobodan@stripes.com

Boneyard: Facility serves as giant parts warehouse for US military

FROM FRONT PAGE

Arguably the boneyard's most important mission is to serve as a giant, open-air parts warehouse for the U.S. military and others.

During the past fiscal year alone, AMARG "reclaimed" 5,744 different parts from the aircraft in its collection, saving taxpayers an estimated \$405.9 million in replacement costs.

And as the only facility of its kind in the nation, the boneyard is often the only place to find the parts needed for certain types of older aircraft.

Barnard says simple, high-priority orders can be filled the same day, but larger, hard-to-reach parts can take weeks or months to harvest and deliver.

"We've done special cuts on aircraft, where we'll cut a piece of an airplane and send it to somebody who needs it," she says.

One of the C-130s that services the science stations in Antarctica sports a tail section that once soaked up the sun in Tucson.

"That's kind of why we get looked at as an air power reservoir," Barnard says. "Our guys take a lot of pride in preserving these aircraft and taking really good care of them. They know they might be needed again, whether it's a whole airplane or just its parts."

Roughly 95% of aircraft arrive at the boneyard under their own power. They land and taxi through a gate at the southeastern

end of the runway to be prepped for slumber.

Their first stop is the "flush farm," where defueling supervisor Dale Pace and his crew can service up to six aircraft a day, depending on the type.

It works a little like a blood transfusion. All of the aviation fuel is pumped out and replaced with a special oil, similar to the stuff used in sewing machines, that coats the tanks and fuel systems to protect them from corrosion. The only way to do that is by firing up the engines.

On this recent Thursday, the crew is working on the Navy P-3, which arrived at AMARG the week before and was towed to the flush farm earlier in the morning.

Two members of Pace's team climb behind the controls of the retro-looking airplane and spin up all four props to burn off the last of the jet fuel and draw the oil into all the places that need protecting.

To coat all the necessary engine parts in an F-15 or an F-18, the fighter jets have to be lashed to the ground and run with their afterburners on, creating a rumbling sound that echoes across Tucson.

The next stop is the wash rack, where men in protective rain gear give a Coast Guard C-130 transport plane a nose-to-tail scrubbing before it flies off to be outfitted to fight wildfires. The aircraft has already been painted

with the U.S. Forest Service name and logo.

Nearby, other members of the six-man crew use high-pressure sprayers and industrial degreasers to clean A-10 wings and landing gear pods recently "brought in from the desert."

The parts will be refurbished in a shop at AMARG and used to extend the life of the Air Force's fleet of ground-attack jets, a mainstay at Davis-Monthan and in the skies above Tucson.

Wash rack supervisor Mike Sherry says that on average his crew cleans about four airplanes and 50 refurbished parts each week.

The men bake all summer in their rubber suits, then spend the cold winter outside soaking wet.

"It's miserable work," Sherry says. "It's one of the hardest jobs at AMARG."

It's also an important one. Cleaning the aircraft and their components makes them more resistant to decay, Sherry says.

The boneyard was established in 1946 to store World War II bombers and transports. Tucson was chosen for its dry desert air — perfect for preventing corrosion — and hard caliche soil capable of supporting heavy airplanes without the need for thousands of acres of concrete.

It became the nation's primary storage center for military aircraft in 1964, when about a thousand Navy planes were transferred to the site from a depot

near Phoenix.

The facility's inventory hit an all-time high of 6,080 aircraft in 1973, as the Vietnam War was winding down.

Today, AMARG is home to about 3,280 aircraft of 80 different varieties, from small helicopters to some of the world's largest military cargo planes.

As Pace, the flush farm supervisor, puts it, "Everything for everyone ends up out here."

Each branch of the military is represented, as are the Coast Guard, Border Patrol, FBI, Forest Service, NASA, the National Science Foundation and several allied governments.

The atmosphere at AMARG is businesslike but decidedly unstarched. Roughly 700 people work at the boneyard, and almost none of them are required to salute anybody.

Barnard is one of only three active duty Air Force personnel assigned to the operation. The rest are civilian Defense Department employees and government contractors.

A lot of the employees have military backgrounds and many of them served as aircraft mechanics.

Before he ended up as AMARG's wash rack supervisor, Sherry used to maintain fighter jets at Luke Air Force Base in Phoenix, among other places.

Some aircraft show up with personal notes written on them by the last people to fly them.

Sherry points to the F-18 that was just brought to his crew for a wash. There on the nose cone, a pilot with the call sign "Dude Bro" has left his goodbye in black Sharpie: "Thank you for your service of girl."

Dean Clark and Gary Chartier play a crucial role at the boneyard. They're the ones who make sure no one gets blown up or launched into the sky while working on one of the mothballed warplanes.

Today they are disarming the ejection system on an F-18. Standing at the top of some rolling metal stairs, Clark reads the steps off a checklist as Chartier leans down into the cockpit to disconnect and remove the explosive charges.

Clark says the process usually takes three to four hours, depending on the age of the aircraft.

Older F-18s are the worst, he says. "There's a bunch of springs and wires. It's annoying."

This is the last step in the "induction" process before an airplane gets towed out to what boneyard workers call "the desert," though it isn't a desert at all. The storage area actually sits on roughly 2,600 acres of hard-packed dirt dotted with weeds, crabgrass and ant hills. There, the airplanes are parked in neat rows and loosely grouped based on their status, which can range from ready to fly to soon to be scrapped.

WAR/MILITARY

\$10K offered for info about Marine wanted in killing

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Marshals Service is offering a \$10,000 reward for direct information leading to the capture of a missing Marine corporal wanted for the shooting death of his mother's boyfriend last week.

Officials said Thursday that they believe Cpl. Michael Alexander Brown was near Roanoke, Va., and closed area schools, urging residents to remain indoors following a report the wanted Marine was spotted in the city about 4 a.m., Roanoke Police Chief Tim Jones said.

Brown, 22, is wanted on charges including second-degree murder in the Nov. 9 killing of Rodney Brown, 54, in nearby Hardy, Va.

Jones said Brown might have initially fled to South Carolina after the shooting, but law enforcement officials were convinced he was in the Roanoke area Thursday after they discovered a recreation vehicle linked to him. Jones and other officials said they were uncertain what Brown's motives were for killing the elder Brown, who has been described as the longtime, live-in boyfriend of the Marine's mother.

The Marine Corps upgraded Brown's status this week from absent without leave to deserter after determining that he was unlikely to return to duty, said Capt. Robert Vachon, a Marine spokesman. He was first listed as AWOL after failing to report for duty Oct. 24 at Camp Lejeune, N.C., where the combat engineer was stationed with the 8th Engineer Support Battalion.

The Marines and the Naval Criminal Investigative Service

are supporting the investigation. Other local and federal law enforcement agencies, including the FBI, are involved in the manhunt.

Jones warned Thursday that Brown was likely moving through the Roanoke area on foot and was believed armed with a "high-capacity" rifle. Brown might be looking for a vehicle to steal, Jones added, urging locals not to leave cars running or to offer rides to any strangers.

"Mr. Brown may be seeking alternative forms of transportation at this time," Jones said. "He is navigationally savvy."

He knows how to maneuver around. He's not afraid to change his location. He's not afraid to change his look."

The police chief said law enforcement officials reached out to some Marines who Brown might have known for information, but they believe the suspect is acting alone. Jones added family members have urged Brown to surrender.

"We have reason to believe he continues to be armed and dangerous, and if he is confronted or pushed into a position where he feels he has no other alternative, he may use force," Jones said. "This is a very dynamic situation because at this point in time we do not know where Mr. Brown might be."

dickstein.corey@stripes.com
Twitter: @CDicksteinDC



Brown



KHALIL HAMRA/AP

A Palestinian girl looks at the rubble of a destroyed house following overnight Israeli missile strikes, in the town of Khan Younis, southern Gaza Strip, on Thursday.

Israel says it completed series of Gaza strikes after firing rockets

By FARES AKRAM
AND JOSEPH KRAUSS
Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Israel said early Friday it has completed a series of airstrikes on targets linked to the Islamic Jihad militant group in Gaza after overnight rocket fire that rattled a day-old truce.

The Palestinian territory's Hamas rulers, who kept to the sidelines of this week's fighting, canceled the weekly protests they organize along the perimeter fence without explanation — apparently in an effort to preserve the calm.

Israel reiterated that it was willing to abide by the cease-fire if there are no additional rocket attacks. The army said in a statement that it struck a military compound, a rocket-manufacturing site and a militant headquarters in the town of Khan Younis overnight.

The airstrikes came after a barrage of rockets late Thursday.

There were no immediate reports of casualties on either side. The situation was calm on Friday.

The unofficial cease-fire that began early Thursday ended a two-day escalation triggered by Israel's targeted killing of an Islamic Jihad commander. The fighting killed 34 Palestinians, including 16 civilians. Palestinian militants fired more than 450 rockets toward Israel, paralyzing much of southern Israel without causing any deaths or serious injuries.

An Israeli airstrike overnight Thursday struck a home in the central Gaza town of Deir al-Balah, killing eight people, including two women and five children under the age of 13. The airstrike apparently targeted the home of an Islamic Jihad commander who was not there at the time. Neighbors said the airstrike killed his brother, who was not involved in militant activity.

The military said Friday that it struck "Islamic Jihad military infrastructure" in Deir al-

Balah and did not intend to harm civilians.

"According to the information available to the IDF at the time of the strike, no civilians were expected to be harmed as a result of the strike," the Israeli Defense Forces said in a statement. It said an investigation is underway.

Israel rejects the criticism, saying it takes numerous precautions to prevent unnecessary civilian casualties. It also accuses Palestinian militants of using civilians as human shields and firing rockets from residential areas. It says militant commanders often hide weapons or command centers inside their homes, making them legitimate targets.

Islamic Jihad announced the Egyptian-brokered cease-fire early Thursday, claiming it had extracted several concessions from Israel. Israel does not generally comment on informal understandings with militant groups and said only that it would halt fire as long as the militants did the same.

DOD chief Esper defends as fair Pentagon contract disputed by Amazon

By ROBERT BURNS
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper said Friday he was certain that the awarding of a \$10 billion cloud-computing contract to Microsoft instead of Amazon was done fairly.

The Pentagon awarded the contract to Microsoft in late October, and Amazon said there was "unmistakable bias" on the government's part and it intended to challenge the decision in court.

Esper recused himself from the contract decision because his son had worked for one of the other unsuccessful bidders.

"I am confident that it was con-

ducted freely and fairly without any type of outside influence," Esper said at a news conference in Seoul, South Korea.

Amazon's competitive bid for the "war cloud" project drew criticism from President Donald Trump and its business rivals. The project formally called the Joint Enterprise Defense Infrastructure, or JEDI, pitted leading tech titans Microsoft, Amazon, Oracle and IBM against one another.

In a statement Thursday, Amazon said "numerous aspects" of the bidding process involved "clear deficiencies, errors, and unmistakable bias." It did not elaborate on those allegations but said "it's important that

these matters be examined and rectified."

Microsoft did not respond to a request for comment. A Defense Department spokeswoman would only say that the Pentagon won't speculate on potential litigation.

JEDI will store and process vast amounts of classified data, allowing the U.S. military to use artificial intelligence to speed up its war planning and fighting capabilities.



Esper

Amazon was long thought to be the front-runner for the contract. Its Amazon Web Services division is far ahead of second-place Microsoft in cloud computing, and Amazon has experience handling highly classified government data.

It survived earlier legal challenges after the Defense Department eliminated Oracle and IBM and whittled the competition to the two Seattle-area tech giants before choosing Microsoft in late October.

The Pentagon was preparing to make its final decision when Trump publicly waded into the fray in July, saying he had heard complaints about the process and

that the administration would "take a very long look." He said other companies told him the contract "wasn't competitively bid." Oracle, in particular, had unsuccessfully argued Pentagon officials unfairly favored Amazon for the winner-take-all contract.

Experts had generally expected Amazon to appeal the award, saying it had little to lose. Steven Schooner, a professor of government procurement law at George Washington University, said Trump's comments were "inappropriate and improvident," but said it would be a challenge for Amazon to prove the White House applied undue pressure in a way that made a difference.

MIDEAST

Hill: US partnership with Kurds still strong

By SARAH EL DEEB
Associated Press

ERBIL, Iraq — A senior U.S. coalition commander said Friday the partnership with Syrian Kurdish forces remains strong and focused on fighting the Islamic State group, despite an expanding Turkish incursion on areas of Kurdish control.

The U.S.-Syrian Kurdish relationship, which dates back to 2014, was strained after President Donald Trump last month ordered American troops out of northern Syria, making way for a Turkish invasion of Kurdish-held towns and villages along a stretch of the border.

On Friday, reports said U.S. forces completed their withdrawal from Kobani, a border region where the partnership against ISIS was cemented in 2014, and that Russians moved in to replace them.

The commander's comments reflect how troops on the ground have painted the mission in broad terms. They say they are staying to fight alongside Kurdish forces against Islamic State, as well as deny ISIS the fields as a source of revenue. They also have sought to show support for the Kurdish fighters.

Trump has described the mission as focused to secure oil fields and infrastructure.

Air Force Maj. Gen. Eric T. Hill told The Associated Press on Friday that ISIS militants remain "a global threat" and that the partnership with the Kurds and international action is still needed against it.

"So, I don't think the work is complete. We still have to pursue them and eliminate



DARRO BANDIC/AP

Air Force Maj. Gen. Eric T. Hill said on Friday that Islamic State militants remain a global threat and that the partnership with the Kurds and international action is still needed against it.

them everywhere we can find them," he said from Baghdad.

Hill said ISIS militants are trying to regroup and find new financing, are still interacting with supporters on social media and continue to plot attacks through affiliates around the world. Syria and Iraq, he said, remain "the center point for all Daesh operations," he added, using the Arabic ac-

ronym for ISIS. "This is where Daesh lives and where they coordinate their acts of terror."

Kurdish and American forces are now operating in a region that is more complicated and crowded with troops since the Turks began their attack on northeast Syria in early October, aimed at pushing the Kurdish fighters away from the

border.

Turkish forces have consolidated control over a stretch of the border running 70 miles wide and 20 miles deep into Syria. They have also kept up pressure outside that area, fighting with Kurdish forces on the edges.

Syrian government forces and their Russian allies have moved into other parts of the border under a Russian-Turkish deal.

U.S. officials emphasize that they will not fight Turkey, a NATO ally.

But Hill underscored that the U.S. was standing by the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces. "We have been working with (the SDF) for a long time and we continue to train and work with them now," Hill said. "So I think the partnership is strong."

He said the SDF are "the lead on the ground" in fighting ISIS. "They know the land, they know the people, and they know the players. They are the best force to fight Daesh," he said.

While ISIS has lost its territorial control in Iraq and Syria, its militants continue to wage insurgent attacks.

Hill said his troops continue to train, advise and equip the Kurdish-led forces. The SDF is guarding the oil fields while the U.S. is providing them help in doing so, he said.

Both sides have sought to show the U.S.-Kurdish partnership never waned. One American commando who works closely with the SDF said at no point was there any drop in communication between the two sides, even as U.S. forces were pulling out from border areas ahead of the Turkish invasion.

Syria's Assad says 'resistance' will force US troops out

Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria — Syrian President Bashar Assad said in remarks broadcast Friday that the American presence in Syria will lead to armed "resistance" that will eventually force the U.S. troops to leave his country.

Assad spoke in an interview with Russia24 TV and Rossiya Segodnya news agency, saying Americans should remember the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and that "Syria will not be an exception."

U.S. officials said this week that Washington will leave about 600 troops in Syria to fight Islamic State. That followed President Donald Trump's decision last month to withdraw the bulk of roughly 1,000 American troops from Syria, drawing bipartisan condemnation.

Earlier this month, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan told Trump that he intended to carry out an operation to clear the Turkey-Syria border of Syrian Kurdish fighters who fought side-by-side with U.S. troops in beating back ISIS fighters in northeast Syria. Ankara has said he considers the Syrian Kurdish fighters terrorists.

After Turkey began an invasion on Oct. 9, capturing dozens of Syrian towns and villages and displacing tens of thousands of people, Kurdish fighters then turned to the Syrian government for protection.

Assad subsequently sent troops to areas near the Turkish border, under an agreement reached between Russia and Turkey.

"I have always said that an occupier cannot occupy a piece of land without having agents in that country, because it would be difficult for them to live in a completely hostile environment," Assad said.

"The American presence in Syria will generate a military resistance which will exact losses among the Americans, and consequently force them to



SANA/AP

Syrian President Bashar Assad said the American presence in Syria will lead to armed "resistance" that will eventually force the U.S. troops to leave.

leave," said Assad, whose troops are backed by Russian forces. "Of course, we are not contemplating a Russian-American confrontation, this is self-evident, and it doesn't serve either our interests, nor the Russians nor international stability," he said. "It is dangerous."

Under another deal reached last month between Turkey and Russia, Syrian Kurdish forces withdrew from almost the entire northeastern border.

Russian and Syrian government forces began moving immediately to ensure the Kurdish fighters pull back 20 miles from the border, and Turkish and Russian troops began joint patrols in the area.

Assad said the Russian-Turkish agreement regarding the withdrawal of the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces must be implemented.

"They need to withdraw because they provided the Turks with the pretext to implement their plan, which they have been dreaming of since the beginning of the war" in Syria eight years ago, Assad said.

Taliban: Promised prisoner swap failed to materialize

By KATHY GANNON
Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — Three Taliban prisoners who were to be freed in exchange for an American and an Australian national, both kidnapped in 2016, are still in custody in Bagram prison north of the capital Kabul, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said Friday.

The three Taliban prisoners did not show up at an exchange site that had been agreed upon with the U.S., though Afghan President Ashraf Ghani said they would be freed.

Mujahid had no explanation for the no-show.

The three Taliban prisoners included Anas Haqqani, the younger brother of the Taliban's deputy chief Sirajuddin Haqqani, who leads the fearsome Haqqani militant network. They were to be exchanged for American University of Afghanistan professors, American Kevin King and Australian Timothy Weeks.

Mujahid said the professors are still in Taliban custody.

In a televised address to the nation on Tuesday, Ghani said the "conditional release" was a very hard decision to make.

Prisoner releases were a key point during peace talks between the U.S. and Taliban last year. U.S. President Donald Trump

abruptly ended the talks in September, following a spate of violent attacks in Kabul.

The prisoner exchange was seen as a door to restarting the talks. U.S. peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad has crosschecked the region in recent weeks meeting with Washington's NATO allies, as well as Russia, China, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

President Ghani has demanded his government be included in talks with the Taliban, who have refused, saying the Afghan government is an American puppet.

Ghani is now in the middle of a controversial contest for his job as president following Afghanistan's Sept. 28 elections, which drew allegations of widespread misconduct and fraud.

Preliminary results were supposed to be released on Thursday, but have again been postponed.

Ghani had hoped a big win in the presidential polls would solidify his political position, but the recount of ballots has been challenged by his main rival, Abdullah Abdullah.

That government was cobbled together after the 2014 presidential elections, which were so deeply overwhelmed by allegations of fraud that the United States stepped in to broker a power-sharing agreement between Abdullah and Ghani.

NATION

Trump releases transcript of 1st Ukraine call

By JONATHAN LEMIRE
AND AMER MADHANI
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Friday released the summary transcript of his April congratulatory call with Ukraine's president-elect, the latest salvo in the White House effort to blunt Democratic allegations that Trump abused his power by pressuring a foreign leader to get involved in U.S. politics.

The new account of Trump's call with Volodymyr Zelenskyy differs significantly from the initial summary of the conversation that the White House released in April. While the first readout of the call said Trump had expressed his commitment to help Ukraine "root out corruption," there is no mention of corruption in the rough transcript released on Friday.

The release of the April call came as the House held a second day of public impeachment hearings with U.S. diplomats who have raised concerns that Trump may have misused his presidential powers by withholding military aid to Ukraine as he called on Zelenskyy to investigate former Vice President Joe Biden, a top political rival.

The 16-minute call, placed from Air Force One as Trump flew back to Washington after a weekend in Florida, is filled with

flattery for Trump from Zelenskyy, and invitations from the new Ukrainian leader for Trump to visit Kyiv. There is no reference to Biden or his son, or to Trump's interest in having the Eastern European leader launch an investigation into the Bidens.

National security officials who listened to the call had said in advance that this first conversation between Trump and Zelenskyy was not considered problematic. The House impeachment inquiry was spurred by Trump's second conversation with Zelenskyy, on July 25, in which the U.S. president urged Zelenskyy to look into the Bidens and Democrats in the 2016 election.

According to the White House account of the April call, Zelenskyy told Trump: "You are, as I said, a great example. We are hoping we can expand on our job as you did. You will always, also, be a great example for so many." Pressing Trump to visit Ukraine, Zelenskyy added: "I know how busy you are but it is possible for you to come to the inauguration ceremony, that would be a great, great thing for you to do to be with us on that day."

Trump in recent days has attempted to shift the spotlight from his July conversation with Zelenskyy to the April call, in which he spoke to Zelenskyy soon after he won a landslide victory

over Ukraine's then-President Petro Poroshenko.

Trump, in comments to reporters last week, called the April call transcript "very important."

Referring to the April call, he urged reporters to read the transcript and "tell me if there's anything wrong with it." The rough transcript as released minutes before former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch began her testimony before impeachment investigators on Capitol Hill. The top Republican on the panel, Rep. Devin Nunes, read the rough transcript aloud into the congressional record.

"The President took the unprecedented steps to declassify and release the transcripts of both of his phone calls" with Zelenskyy "so that every American can see he did nothing wrong," said White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham.

In that first call, Zelenskyy, taking power against the backdrop of Russian menace, urgently tried to build a relationship with Trump, extolling Ukraine's food and people while repeatedly asking the president to come visit. Trump demurred but pledged that a high-level delegation would attend Zelenskyy's inauguration.

Vice President Mike Pence was slated to attend the Kyiv ceremony but his trip was canceled. In the end, Energy Secretary Rick Perry led the delegation.



MANUEL BALCE CENETIA/AP

Trump has released the summary transcript of his April phone call with the Ukraine's president congratulating him on his election win.

Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman, an Army officer assigned to the National Security Council, said during a closed-door deposition last month that the two calls between the president were starkly different in tone.

"What I could say is the tone in the call on the 21st of April was very positive, in my assessment," Vindman said. "The call, the tone of the call on July 25th was not. It was... I'm struggling for the words, but it was not a positive call. It was sour. If I think about it some more, I could probably come up with some other adjectives,

but it was just — the difference between the calls was apparent."

Fiona Hill, the former top Russia policy specialist at the National Security Council, in her deposition described the April exchange between the two presidents as a "short congratulatory call."

The first call was marked as unclassified, for official use only. The second call was classified as Secret/Originator Controlled/No Foreign Nationals and was placed on a highly classified National Security Council server.

Ousted: Yovanovitch says she was told to 'watch my back' before firing

FROM FRONT PAGE

She told the lawmakers her sudden removal had played into the hands of "shady interests the world over" with dangerous intentions toward the United States.

She recalled that as she had read the White House's rough transcript of Trump's conversation with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, another person said, "The color drained from my face."

She said quietly, "Even now words fail me."

Her removal is one of several events at the center of the impeachment effort.

"These events should concern everyone in this room," the diplomat testified in opening remarks. "Shady interests the world over have learned how little it takes to remove an American ambassador who does not give them what they want."

The daughter of immigrants who fled the former Soviet Union and Nazi German, she described a 33-year career, including three tours as an ambassador to some of the world's toughest postings, before arriving in Ukraine in 2016. She was forced out in May 2019.

She denied the accusations against her, including that she favored Democrat Hillary Clinton over Trump in the 2016 election and that she circulated a "Do Not Prosecute" list to former top prosecutor in Ukraine, Sergiy Lutsenko, which she called a "fabrication."

Schiff, the Democratic chairman of the panel, opened the day's hearing saying she was "too tough on corruption for some, and her principled stance made her enemies." It became clear, he said, "President Trump wanted her gone."



ANDREW HARRIS/AP

Former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch testifies before the House Intelligence Committee in Washington on Friday during the second public impeachment hearing of President Donald Trump's efforts to tie the U.S. aid for Ukraine to investigations of his political opponents.

The top Republican on the panel, Rep. Devin Nunes of California, bemoaned the hearings as a "daylong TV spectacle."

Nunes complained that Democrats are relying on hearsay testimony from witnesses who only know of Trump's actions second-hand. He also pressed to hear from the still anonymous government whistleblower who first alerted officials about President Donald Trump's phone call with

Ukraine that is in question. "These hearings should not be occurring at all," he said.

Just as the hearing was opening, the White House released its rough transcript of an earlier call Trump had with Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy that was largely congratulatory.

Nunes read that transcript aloud. In it, Trump mentioned his experience with the

Miss Universe pageant in Ukraine and invited Zelenskyy to the White House. He closed with, "See you very soon."

Yovanovitch, a career diplomat, who has served both Republican and Democratic presidents, relayed her striking story of being told to "watch my back" and then being suddenly recalled by Trump in a swiftly developing series of events that sounded alarms about a White House shadow foreign policy.

In particular, Yovanovitch and others have described Giuliani, Trump's lawyer, as leading an "irregular channel" outside the diplomatic mainstream of U.S.-Ukraine relations. Asked during an earlier, closed-door deposition if anyone at the State Department who was alerted to Giuliani's role tried to stop him, she testified, "I don't think they felt they could."

The White House has instructed officials not to comply with the probe, and most have been issued subpoenas to appear.

Later Friday, the panel in closed-door session was to hear from David Holmes, a political adviser in Kyiv, who overheard Trump asking about the investigations the day after the July conversation with Zelenskyy. Holmes was at dinner with Gordon Sondland, when the Ambassador to the European Union called Trump. The conversation was apparently loud enough to be heard.

Trump says he doesn't know about that call. The AP has reported a second US Embassy official also overheard it.

Yovanovitch and other officials now testifying publicly are providing accounts that Democrats are relying on to make the case that the president's behavior was impeachable.

NATION

Roger Stone found guilty on all counts

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Roger Stone, a longtime friend and ally of President Donald Trump, was found guilty Friday of witness tampering and lying to Congress about his pursuit of Russian-hacked emails damaging to Hillary Clinton's 2016 election bid.

Stone was convicted of all seven counts in a federal indictment that accused him of lying to Congress, tampering with a witness and obstructing the House investigation into whether the Trump campaign coordinated with Russia to tip the 2016 election. He is the sixth Trump aide or adviser to be convicted of charges brought as part of special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation.

Stone has denied wrongdoing and consistently criticized the case against him as politically motivated. He did not take the stand during the trial, and his lawyers did not call any witnesses in his defense.

Stone, 67, showed no visible reaction as the verdict was read aloud, count by count. He's scheduled to be sentenced on Feb. 6. He could face up to 20 years.

Another former Trump campaign aide, Michael Caputo, was removed by the courtroom security officers after he turned his back on the jury after the verdict was read.

Stone smirked at reporters as he left the courtroom, holding hands with his wife. As he walked out of the courtroom, Stone was asked if he had any comment on the verdict and he replied, "None whatsoever" before he hopped into a waiting SUV with his wife.

Trump tweeted minutes after the verdict, calling the conviction "a double standard like never seen before in the history of our Country" because his frequent nemeses, including Hillary Clinton, former FBI Director James Comey and "including even Mueller himself," have not been convicted. "Didn't they lie?"

In a trial that lasted about a week, witnesses highlighted how



Julio Cortez/AP

Roger Stone, left, and his wife, Nydia Stone, leave federal court in Washington on Friday.

Trump campaign associates were eager to gather information about emails the U.S. says were hacked by Russia and then provided to the anti-secrecy website WikiLeaks.

Steve Bannon, who served as the campaign's chief executive, testified during the trial that Stone had boasted about his ties to WikiLeaks and its founder, Julian Assange, alerting them to pending new batches of damaging emails. Campaign officials saw Stone as the "access point" to WikiLeaks, he said.

After the verdict was read, prosecutors asked for Stone to be jailed as he awaits sentencing, arguing that he may have violated a judge's order that prohibits him from communicating with the media about his case. But Judge Amy Berman Jackson rejected that request and said Stone will be subject to same conditions he

faced following his arrest, including the gag order.

Throughout the trial, prosecutors used Stone's own text messages and emails — some of which appeared to contradict his congressional testimony — to lay out their case that he lied to Congress and threatened a witness.

On Tuesday, a top Trump campaign official, Rick Gates, who was a key cooperor in the Mueller probe, testified that Stone tried to contact Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law, to "debrief" him about developments on the hacked emails.

Prosecutors alleged Stone lied to Congress about his conversations about WikiLeaks with New York radio host and comedian Randy Credico — who scored an interview with WikiLeaks founder Assange in 2016, when he was avoiding prosecution by sheltering in the Ecuadorian embassy

in London — and conservative writer and conspiracy theorist Jerome Corsi.

During the 2016 campaign, Stone had mentioned in interviews and public appearances that he was in contact with Assange through a trusted intermediary and hinted at inside knowledge of WikiLeaks' plans. But he started pressing Credico to broker a contact, and Credico testified that he told Stone to work through his own intermediary.

Earlier testimony revealed that Stone, while appearing before the House Intelligence Committee, named Credico as his intermediary to Assange and pressured Credico not to contradict him.

After Credico was contacted by Congress, he reached out to Stone, who told him he should "stone-wall it" and "plead the fifth," he testified.

Judge rules woman who joined ISIS not citizen

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A federal judge has ruled the U.S. government was correct when it determined a woman who joined Islamic State was not an American citizen despite her birth in the country.

Lawyers for the family of the woman said Friday that they plan to appeal the ruling.

"While we are disappointed with and disagree with the Court's ruling today, this is not the end of our client's legal options," said Christina Jump, a lawyer with the Constitutional Law Center for Muslims in America.

Hoda Muthana was born in New Jersey in October 1994 to a diplomat from Yemen and grew up in Alabama.

In 2014, she left the U.S. to join ISIS, apparently after becoming radicalized online. While she was overseas, the government determined she was not a U.S. citizen because her father was a diplomat at the time of her birth and revoked her passport.

She surrendered in January to U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces as ISIS began losing the last of its self-declared "caliphate" in Iraq and Syria, and she has been in refugee camps ever since.

Muthana said she regretted her decision to join the group and wanted to return to the U.S. with her toddler child, the son of a man she met while living with the group who later died.

Her family filed suit to enable her return to the United States. Children of diplomats are not entitled to birthright citizenship but, the family's lawyers argued that her father's status as a diplomat assigned to the U.N. ended before her birth and she was automatically a citizen.

The U.S. says it wasn't notified that his status had changed until February 1995, apparently because of a delay in reporting it by the U.N., and therefore he was still a diplomat.

U.S. District Judge Reggie Walton upheld that determination Thursday.

Jump said the judge ruled from the bench that he believes he is bound by the Department of State's representation as to when the government received notice that the father's diplomatic position had ended and granted the defendant's motion to dismiss on that basis.

Her case has drawn widespread attention because President Donald Trump tweeted about it in February, saying he had directed the secretary of state not to allow her back into the U.S. The decision to revoke her passport was made under President Barack Obama.

New rule to make more health care rates public

By AMY GOLDSTEIN

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration on Friday issued controversial rules compelling hospitals and insurers to give consumers more information upfront about what their care will cost — requirements that officials say help Americans be better health care shoppers.

Under one rule resisted for months by a broad swath of the health care industry, hospitals must for the first time reveal in a consumer-friendly format the discounted rates they negotiate privately with insurers for a list of 300 services patients can schedule in advance, including X-rays and cesarean deliveries.

The requirement takes effect

in January 2021.

In a new twist, the administration is also proposing to require most health plans that Americans get through their jobs to disclose the rates they negotiate with hospitals and doctors in their insurance networks, as well as the amounts they pay to doctors who are not in their network.

Taken together, the pair of actions — one a final rule, the other in draft form — is part of President Donald Trump's 2020 electoral strategy to win favor with voters eager to choose more affordable health care.

The president is trying to capitalize on polling that shows health care ranks among Americans' leading domestic concerns, with consumers looking to government especially to ease the burden of

escalating out-of-pocket costs.

The hospital industry has vowed for months to sue to try to block the requirements on them, and administration officials sought preemptively to tarnish such opposition.

"Make no mistake about it, this rule today will irritate many vested interests in Washington, D.C.," Joe Grogan, director of the White House's domestic policy council, told reporters on a morning conference call.

Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar called the rules "perhaps the most transformative shift to patient-controlled health care that any president" has undertaken. Consumers are now "at the mercy of a shadowy system" of pricing that "has to change," he said.

Other moves the administration has taken to reshape the U.S. health care system have been challenged in court — and some have not fared well. Earlier this year, a Washington-based federal judge ruled the administration did not have the authority to compel the drug industry to disclose drug prices in television advertisements.

Also, the administration withdrew a major effort it had made to rein in drug prices by prohibiting rebates to insurance middlemen following criticism it could actually increase Medicare premiums before next year's election.

The issue of transparency in health care pricing has been a drumbeat for the White House and Trump's top health advisers for much of this year.

NATION

GOP Gov. Bevin concedes in Kentucky race

By **BRUCE SCHREINER**
Associated Press

FRANKFORT, Ky. — Republican Gov. Matt Bevin conceded to Democratic arch-enemy Andy Beshear on Thursday, putting an end to Kentucky's bitterly fought governor's race and setting the stage for divided government in a GOP stronghold.

Bevin, an ally of President Donald Trump, made the dramatic announcement outside his statehouse office on the same day election officials across Kentucky double-checked vote totals at the governor's request. Bevin, trailing by several thousand votes, acknowledged the canvass would not change the outcome.

"We're going to have a change in the governorship based on the vote of the people," Bevin said at the news conference.

Promising Kentuckians that "we won't let you down," Beshear said later in the day that he's ready to help build the "next chapter" of Kentucky's future.

Looking ahead to dealing with a GOP-led legislature, the governor-elect urged policymakers to find common ground and to "civilly disagree" when they can't.

"If we can work together on the areas that we agree on and we can cut down on the rhetoric in the areas that we don't, there is a significant amount that we can get done," he said. "I believe that the areas that are so important for Kentucky, for instance the health and the education of our people, aren't partisan at all."

It was a subdued scene as members of Bevin's administration watched the pug-nacious governor graciously wish Beshear — the state's attorney general — well in his new role.

His concession capped a nearly four-year rivalry that dominated Kentucky



THOMTY D. EASLEY/AP

Republican Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin speaks with reporters as he conceded the gubernatorial race to Democrat Andy Beshear in Frankfort, Ky., on Thursday.

politics. Beshear, wielding his authority as the state's top lawyer, challenged a series of Bevin's executive actions during their terms. Their feud spread to the campaign trail and a series of bare-knuckled debates this year.

"I truly want the best for Andy Beshear as he moves forward. I genuinely want him to be successful, I genuinely want this state to be successful," Bevin said.

Beshear thanked Bevin for promising a smooth transition.

Last week's election results showed

Bevin trailing Beshear by more than 5,000 votes out of more than 1.4 million cast, for a lead of less than 0.4 percentage points. Secretary of State Alison Lundergan Grimes said in a statement that Thursday's canvass of vote counts left the final margin at 5,136 votes. The State Board of Elections is scheduled to meet Nov. 21 to certify the vote totals.

Calling for unity after the divisive campaign, Beshear said Kentuckians share more in common — regardless of party affiliation — than "any national divisions

can ever pull us apart." He appeared at the press conference with his running mate, Lt. Gov.-elect Jacqueline Coleman.

"Whether you voted for us or not, we are here to serve you," Beshear said at a press conference at the Kentucky Education Association headquarters. "We'll work every single day to earn your faith, to earn your trust."

Bevin vowed not to publicly undermine or second-guess Beshear's actions once his rival becomes governor.

"I am sure there will be things I'm excited by and have complete agreement with, and there will be things that I will probably be on the other side of the equation with, and this is the way things are," Bevin said.

In the days after the Nov. 5 election, Bevin had steadfastly refused to concede while hinting, without offering evidence, that there had been "irregularities" in the voting.

Bevin, however, faced a growing chorus of state Republicans urging him to accept the results of the canvass unless he could point to evidence of substantial voter fraud.

Beshear said Thursday that the election was "fair and clean."

Beshear, the son of a former two-term Kentucky governor, had already declared victory and has been preparing to become governor in December.

The Kentucky contest was watched closely for early signs of how the impeachment furor in Washington might affect Trump and other Republicans heading into the 2020 election. Bevin rallied against the impeachment inquiry and illegal immigration in trying to nationalize the race, while Beshear kept his focus on state issues such as education, health care and pensions.

Texas Rep. Nevarez admits to dropping cocaine at airport

By **TEO ARMUS**
The Washington Post

A stray envelope may end the political career of Texas state Rep. Poncho Nevarez.

As the Democratic lawmaker, 47, was leaving an airport in Austin, Texas, earlier this year, he dropped an envelope bearing his official letterhead, police said, citing surveillance video.

Inside, investigators now say they found a revelation that would lead to an apology, a decision not to seek reelection — as of Thursday afternoon — and a warrant for his arrest: The sealed envelope, they said in court documents, contained four "small

clear baggies" filled with cocaine.

Nevarez is now charged with third-degree felony possession and could face up to 10 years in prison, a stunning downfall for a rising Democratic star in a state turning ever more purple.

His office did not immediately respond to a request for comment from The Washington Post early on Friday. But in a statement to the Texas Tribune on Thursday morning, he said: "I do not have anyone to blame but myself. I accept this because it is true and it will help me get better."

Nevarez, first elected in 2012, holds the distinction of representing the nation's larg-

est State House district, approximately the size of Pennsylvania: a mostly rural swath of south and west Texas that snakes along the border with Mexico, encompassing two time zones and 45,000 square miles.

A personal injury lawyer by practice, he chairs the Texas House's Homeland Security and Public Safety Committee and emerged as an outspoken voice in the chamber on immigration and gun control. He was in part credited for bringing "panic buttons" to the offices of his fellow lawmakers after he and other Democratic legislators were threatened by open-carry activists.

Nevarez made national headlines in 2017, when state Rep. Matt Rinaldi, a Republican, loudly announced he had called immigration authorities on a group protesting a bill on sanctuary cities. Amid the scuffle between lawmakers that followed on the house floor, Nevarez said Rinaldi had "threatened my life."

The Democrat also served as vice chairman of a committee formed by lawmakers in response to the state's two mass shootings earlier this year, in El Paso and Odessa. Some had speculated that Nevarez could serve as a possible candidate for Texas state senate.

Suspect in 1990s-era 'Potomac River Rapist' cold case is arrested

Associated Press

CONWAY, S.C. — Genealogy websites and a cheek swab enabled U.S. Marshals to arrest a man suspected of being the "Potomac River Rapist," who terrorized the nation's capital in the 1990s.

News outlets reported that Giles Daniel Warrick, 60, is now awaiting extradition from Horry County, S.C. He's accused of raping 10 women and killing one of them between 1991 and 1998 in Washington and its surrounding suburbs.

Authorities said DNA evidence matched family profiles in genealogy services, enabling investigators to narrow their search after interviewing Warrick's relatives.

"This man terrorized our community," District of Columbia police Chief Peter Newsham told The Washington Post.

Warrick had moved to South Carolina after working as a landscaper in Maryland. Police said detectives questioned him and obtained a cheek swab with his DNA to provide the match to crime scene evidence.

It's unclear whether Warrick has a lawyer to speak for him.

Law enforcement officials had been looking for a suspect for years, trying to find an athletic man prone to throwing blankets or towels over his victims before starting to rape them, and making comments suggesting he had stalked them.



Warrick

The victims included a teenage babysitter, a promising young scientist and women returning home from work or grocery shopping. Some were attacked in their homes with children inside.

Christine Mirzayan, 28, a biochemist, was accosted in Georgetown in Washington in

1998 while walking home from a friend's cocktail. She was dragged into a wooded area, sexually assaulted and bludgeoned to death with a 73-pound rock.

Her then-husband, David Hackos, told The Post that Warrick's arrest "brings a huge relief" but also "brings us back to that time" of the killing.

In 2011, police and the FBI launched an ambitious public outreach campaign to find the Potomac River Rapist, so named because of the geographic area of the attacks. That effort included digital billboards, a \$25,000 reward and podcasts and social media alerts aimed at soliciting tips, modeled after similar efforts that led to the arrest of former Boston mobster James "Whitey" Bulger.

It took more recent developments in technology — and the advent of public genealogy services — to crack the case.

NATION

LA suburb mourns student victims after shooting

By STEFANIE DAZIO
AND CHRIS WEBER
Associated Press

SANTA CLARITA, Calif. — A boy described as bright, quiet and “normal” pulled a gun from his backpack on his 16th birthday and opened fire at his high school before saving the last bullet for himself, authorities said.

The shooting that killed two teenagers and wounded three others Thursday at Saugus High School in a Los Angeles suburb took just 16 seconds and left the attacker hospitalized in critical condition with a head wound, authorities said.

Investigators searched the boy's home as they sought a motive for the attack, which seemed to target students at random, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Capt. Kent Wegener said.

A post on an Instagram account that said “Saugus, have fun at school tomorrow” and reported as possibly belonging to the shooter was debunked.

The account did not belong to the shooter and it was disabled for violating policies, Instagram owner Facebook said in a statement emailed to The Associated Press on Friday.

Authorities said the teenager appeared to act alone. There was no indication that he was affiliated with a group or ideology, said Paul Delacourt, the agent in charge of the FBI's Los Angeles field office.

Gunfire erupted at about 7:30 a.m. as students were “milling around and greeting each other in an outdoor quad area, Wegener said. Surveillance video showed the shooter standing still while “everyone is active around him.”

“He just fires from where he is. He doesn't chase anybody. He



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

Hannah Schooping-Gutierrez, center, a student at Saugus High School in Saugus, is comforted by her boyfriend, Declan Sheridan, right, a student at nearby Valencia High School during a vigil at Central Park in the aftermath of a shooting at Saugus on Thursday in Santa Clarita, Calif.

doesn't move,” Wegener said.

The suspect appeared to fire at whoever was in front of him. He had no known connection to those he shot, Wegener said.

Video showed the last thing the assailant did was shoot himself with the final bullet in the .45-caliber handgun, Wegener said. The weapon was found as it was recovered.

A 16-year-old girl and a 14-year-old boy died.

Two girls, ages 14 and 15, were each in good condition after being treated for gunshot wounds at a hospital.

A 14-year-old boy was treated and released from another hospital, authorities said.

Shauna Orandi, 16, was in her Spanish class when she heard four gunshots and a student burst into the room saying he'd seen the shooter.

“My worst nightmare actually came true,” she said. “This is it. I'm gonna die.”

She was later escorted from the school and reunited with her father in a nearby park.

At a Thursday evening vigil, Lea Reas said her nephew, 14, a freshman, saw his friend shot to death before he ran from the gunfire and was pulled into a room by a teacher.

“At first he thought it was a graze” but later was told his friend had died, she said.

“He lost it,” she said.

Reas also said her cousin, 15, was walking onto the campus when she heard the gunshots that she said sounded “like a balloon” popping and saw the gunman.

She and her friends ran to a house across the street for safety, Reas said.

“It's something no kid should deal with,” she said.

A sheriff's detective and two off-duty police officers from Los Angeles and Inglewood who had dropped off children at the school ran to the shooting within moments and provided first aid, Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva said.

Police have not publicly iden-

tified the suspect because he's a minor. The Associated Press determined his identity based on property records for his home and interviews with three of his friends.

The boy lived with his mother in a modest home on a leafy street in Santa Clarita, a Los Angeles suburb of about 210,000 people known for good schools, safe streets and relatively affordable housing.

He was a smart, quiet boy who played chess and had been active in a local Boy Scout troop, acquaintances said.

He seemed like “one of those normal kids,” according to a student in his physics class.

One girl who knew him for years said he wasn't bullied and had a girlfriend.

The teen's father died two years ago. An online obituary said he loved big-game hunting. In 2015, the father had been arrested amid a domestic dispute with the boy's mother but no charges were filed.

The sheriff's department hadn't been called to the home recently and there was no indication of “turmoil” there, Wegener said.

Saugus High has no metal detectors but it has a dozen security cameras and a fence with a limited number of gates.

Security is provided by one unarmed sheriff's deputy and nine “campus supervisors” who act as guards, said Collyn Nielson, chief administrative officer for the William S. Hart Union High School District, which canceled classes for Friday.

All district schools hold lockdown drills three times a year, including two in the fall that have already occurred, Nielson said.

Teen SC school shooter gets life sentence for killing 1st-grader

By JEFFREY COLLINS
Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — A school shooter who was 14 when he killed a first-grader on a school playground in South Carolina after killing his father in their home was sentenced Thursday to life in prison without parole.

Jesse Osborne targeted Townville Elementary School because he had spent seven years there. Prosecutors, who pushed for the life sentence, said the teen was familiar with the classroom layout and knew there was no police officer on campus.

Osborne crashed his father's pickup truck into the fence on Sept. 28, 2016, and fired on first-graders celebrating a classmate's birthday. Uneaten cupcakes with the Batman logo were still seen inside police tape hours later.

Osborne's lawyers noted he never tried to get inside the

school, even though police took 12 minutes to arrive. Osborne had left a video chat open on his cellphone, and witnesses said Osborne was pacing outside, crying and saying he was sorry.

Judge Lawton McIntosh handed down the life sentence in Anderson County immediately following several recommendations that he mete out the maximum punishment possible. Those seeking life included Osborne's former principal at Townville; the teacher whose class was on the playground that day; the family of Jacob Hall, 6, who was killed; Osborne's own uncle; and a child who escaped the horror. A U.S. Supreme Court decision bans the death penalty for juveniles.

“He killed my second-best friend and showed up on my number one BFF's birthday. I feel very, very, very mad. That is three reasons why he should spend life

in prison,” the unnamed child wrote in a letter to the judge.

Osborne was sentenced hours after the latest deadly United States school shooting. Authorities said a student gunman opened fire at Saugus High School in Southern California, killing two students, wounding three others and shooting himself in the head. Investigators haven't said why the teen attacked his classmates on his 16th birthday.

Osborne, now 17, was being tried as an adult and faced a minimum of 30 years after pleading guilty to two counts of murder and three counts of attempted murder. This week's special hearing was required under a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that life sentences for juveniles can't be mandatory and arbitrary.

McIntosh considered evidence including Osborne's maturity and rehabilitation potential, his home



KEN RUINARD, THE (ANDERSON COUNTY, S.C.) INDEPENDENT-MAIL/AP

Jesse Osborne talks with his attorney, Frank Eppes, during a sentence-related hearing at the Anderson County Courthouse on Wednesday in Anderson, S.C.

life and the circumstances of the crime.

McIntosh said the murders were heinous and he worried about Osborne's lack of remorse.

Osborne spoke for less than a minute Thursday, asking the judge for mercy.

“I would just like to say I wished this would have never happened. I don't exactly know why I did this,” Osborne said. “I

just ask you give me hope for the future and get me help because I do need help. I want help.”

Prosecutors said Osborne was obsessed with school shootings. His internet history included searches for “youngest mass murderer” and mass shootings at an Orlando, Fla., nightclub, Connecticut's Sandy Hook Elementary School and Columbine High School in Colorado.

NATION

Astronauts using spacewalks to fix cosmic ray locator

By MARCIA DUNN
Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Astronauts began an extraordinarily complicated series of spacewalks Friday to fix a cosmic ray detector at the International Space Station.

Italian astronaut Luca Parmitano and U.S. astronaut Andrew Morgan ventured out Friday with dozens of tools to dissect the Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer. It took them nearly two hours to get to the instrument and start removing a protective shield, one fastener at a time, to gain access inside.

"Nice work, Luca. Looks great," Mission Control radioed to Parmitano on the end of the space station's long robot arm.

NASA considers these spacewalks the most difficult since the Hubble Space Telescope repairs a few decades ago. Unlike Hubble, the spectrometer was never meant to undergo space surgery. After 8½ years in orbit, its cooling system is almost dead.

Parmitano and Morgan will go out at least four times this month and next to revitalize the instrument.

Delivered to orbit by Endeavour in 2011 on the next-to-last space shuttle flight, the \$2 billion spectrometer is hunting for elusive antimatter and dark matter.

It's already studied more than 148 billion charged cosmic rays. That's more than what was collected in over a century by high-altitude balloons and small satellites, said lead scientist Samuel Ting, a Nobel laureate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He monitored Friday's

spacewalk from Mission Control in Houston.

The huge spectrometer — 16 feet by 13 feet by 10 feet, with a mass of 7½ tons — was designed to operate for three years. By installing four new and improved coolant pumps, the astronauts can keep it working throughout the life of the space station, or another five to 10 years. The replacement pumps arrived at the space station nearly two weeks ago, along with new tools.

Parmitano, the lead spacewalker, and Morgan trained extensively for the plumbing job before rocketing into orbit. Friday's task entailed removing the shield and tossing it overboard. The next spacewalk will involve slicing through stainless steel tubes and splicing in connections for the new pumps, which like the old will use liquid carbon dioxide as the coolant.

In some respects, this work, 250 miles up, is even trickier than the Hubble spacewalks, said NASA project manager Ken Bollweg. As before, the stakes are high.

"Any time you do heart surgery, you're taking some risks," Bollweg said.

Morgan is an emergency physician in the Army — a bonus for this kind of intricate work. He's making his first spaceflight.

For second-time station resident Parmitano, it marked his return to spacewalking following a close call in 2013. He almost drowned when his helmet flooded with water from the cooling system of his spacesuit. Unable to talk because of the rising water, he managed to keep his cool as he made his way back to the safe confines of the space station.



NASA/AP

A NASA photo shows Italian astronaut Luca Parmitano and U.S. astronaut Andrew Morgan performing maintenance on the International Space Station during a spacewalk on Friday. The astronauts ventured out with dozens of tools and four new pumps for the Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer.



JULIO CORTEZ/AP

Heather Randazzo, a grow employee at Compassionate Care Foundation's medical marijuana dispensary, trims leaves off marijuana plants in the company's grow house in Egg Harbor Township, N.J., in March.

Poll shows opposition to legal marijuana use is vaporizing

By CHRISTOPHER INGRAHAM
The Washington Post

More than two-thirds of Americans say marijuana should be legal, according to new data from Pew Research Center, as the share of those opposed to the idea plunged 20 percentage points, to 32%.

Legalization is endorsed by 78% of Democrats and 55% of Republicans. It has roughly two-thirds support among every racial, gender and educational group in the United States, the survey shows. The findings do show one significant demographic fault line, however: age. Legalization is supported by 63% of baby boomers, 65% of Gen Xers, and 76% of millennials. But among the silent generation — those older than 74 years — support is just 35%.

Partisan differences are heavily mediated by age as well. Among the silent generation, for instance, there is a 32-point gap in support between Democrats (53%) and Republicans (21%). Among millennials, regardless of party affiliation, more than 70% support legal marijuana. In assessing support for marijuana, surveys have typically posed a simple question: "Do you think the use of marijuana should be made legal or should NOT be made legal?" For this survey, however, Pew researchers posed a separate question to suss out whether Americans back recreational marijuana, medical marijuana, both or neither.

Some 59% said it should be legal for both medical and recreational purposes, a 10-point increase since fall 2016, 32% said it should be legal for medical only, just 8% said it should not be legal at all, a steep drop from the

By the numbers

78%

Percentage of Democrats who say marijuana use should be legal, according to a poll by the Pew Research Center

55%

Percentage of Republicans who say marijuana use should be legal, according to the poll

59%

Percentage of survey respondents who say marijuana use should be legal for medical and recreational purposes

SOURCE: Pew Research Center

15% recorded in 2016.

As with many political issues, the public's preferences on marijuana are well to the left of where the policy currently stands. The plant remains illegal for all purposes under federal law. Recreational marijuana is legal in

11 states plus the District of Columbia, in most cases because of voter-approved ballot initiatives. Most other states have some form of medical marijuana law, although in many cases there are severe restrictions on the conditions for which medical marijuana can be used or on the types of marijuana that can be used.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, just four states — Idaho, South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas — prohibit marijuana use in all forms.

"As more and more states have moved forward with their own marijuana liberalization policies in recent years, public support has only grown stronger," Erik Altieri, executive director of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, said in a statement. "At a time when the political divide is larger than ever, the issue of marijuana legalization is one of the few policy issues upon which most Americans agree."

Legalization foes contend that marijuana use comes with negative health effects. This week, the group Smart Approaches to Marijuana, or SAM, highlighted the results of a study in the journal JAMA Psychiatry showing a half-percentage-point increase in rates of problematic cannabis use among teens in states that have legalized recreational use.

"Legalization efforts are sending the message that marijuana use is safe and state-sanctioned," SAM President Kevin Sabet said in a statement. "No amount of marijuana use is safe for young people, and more must be done to halt its normalization."

WORLD



DARKO VOJNOVIC/AP

Migrants prepare food in the Vucjak refugee camp outside Bihac, northwestern Bosnia, on Friday.

Rights group: Bosnian migrant camp 'dangerous and inhumane'

By RADUL RADOVANOVIC
Associated Press

BIHAC, Bosnia-Herzegovina — A prominent human rights group is warning that migrants trying to reach Western Europe are living in "dangerously cold and harsh conditions" in Bosnia, where tensions mounted further Friday over the influx of thousands of people fleeing war and poverty.

Impoverished Bosnia has been overwhelmed by the arrival of migrants heading toward Europe along the so-called Balkan route. Most migrants flock to the northwest section of the Balkan country, which borders European Union member Croatia.

This has led to tensions in the border region, with local authorities demanding that other parts of the country share the migrant burden and take in some of the more than 6,000 people staying in the area.

The Doctors Without Borders group warned that "people may die without adequate shelter and other basic services" in Bosnia, where many migrants are sleeping in makeshift shelters and abandoned homes.

"Four official centers for migrants exist, but services are inadequate and tensions are high, leading most people to stay elsewhere," the report added.

It singled out the impoverished Vucjak refugee camp in northwestern Bosnia, describing it as a "dangerous and inhumane place" that does not meet minimum living standards. The camp is located on a landfill and next to a minefield from the 1992-95 Bosnian War.

"People arrive at our clinic from Vucjak in flip-flops, without socks or jackets, a lot of them suffering from respiratory infections and from skin diseases caused by the horrific living conditions,"

said Nihal Osman, Doctors Without Borders' deputy field coordinator. "It should be closed now."

In a bid to pressure the central Bosnian government to relocate some of the migrants, the regional government vowed to fully restrict migrant movements at the two main camps beginning Friday.

Protests demanding the relocation of migrant centers were planned for later in the day.

Bosnia's central government has said it would turn two former army barracks in other parts of the country into new migrant facilities. This was hailed by the EU mission in Bosnia on Friday that expressed hope that it would lead to the closure of the Vucjak camp.

"We expect all the authorities in the country to continue working together in good faith to find ways for burden-sharing and long-term solutions," the EU said.

North Korea calls Biden 'rabid dog' greedy for power

By SIMON DENYER
The Washington Post

SEOUL — North Korea has launched another volley of insults at former vice president Joe Biden, calling him a "rabid dog" who is greedy for power and deserves to be beaten to death.

The attack came two weeks after Biden issued a statement attacking President Donald Trump's North Korea policy and referring to that country's leader, Kim Jong Un, as a "murderous dictator."

In response, North Korea laid on the animal metaphors thick and fast, calling Biden a crafty, rabid dog keen at getting at others' throats, and as a profiteer.

"A crow is never whiter for often washing," the Korean Central News Agency said in a commentary.

"Anyone who dare slanders the dignity of the supreme leadership of the DPRK, can never spare the DPRK's merciless punishment whoever and wherever," it said, referring to the country's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

"And he will be made to see even in a grave what horrible consequences will be brought about by his thoughtless utterances."

It then returned to the animal theme.

"Rabid dogs like Biden [sic] can hurt lots of people if they are allowed to run about," it said. "They must be beaten to death with a stick before it is too late." It wrote, "Doing so will be beneficial for the U.S. also."

This is not the first time Biden has invited the scorn of North Korea. In May, it called him a "fool of low I.Q." for calling Kim a dictator and a tyrant.

In his presidential campaign, Biden has been sharply critical of Trump's policy on North Korea, calling it a diplomatic failure that has made the American people less safe and arguing that Trump has been making excuses for a dictator and a brutal regime.

'Rabid dogs like Biden [sic] can hurt lots of people if they are allowed to run about.'

After the North Korean state-ment in May, Biden's campaign team responded by saying it was "no surprise" that Pyongyang would prefer that Trump remain in the White House.

The criticism of Biden came just a day after North Korea issued a rare criticism of Trump, and could be seen as an attempt to leave a small window open for dialogue with the current administration.

On Thursday, North Korea said Trump had reneged on a promise to end joint U.S.-South Korea military exercises, arguing it had given concessions, in the form of ceasing nuclear and long-range missile tests, that the U.S. president could "brag about," but had received nothing in return.

Brexit Party fails to clinch voting pact with Britain's ruling Conservatives

By DANICA KIRKA
Associated Press

LONDON — Britain's Brexit Party has failed to reach a tactical voting pact with the ruling Conservatives, saying Thursday that it will field 300 candidates in next month's election to force Prime Minister Boris Johnson to deliver on his promise of a clean break with the European Union.

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

"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 told the BBC.

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 reached a Brexit deal with the EU but so far has not persuaded enough British lawmakers to pass it. The single-issue Brexit Party, meanwhile, prefers to leave the EU without a deal, something that economists say would damage both the British and EU economies.

The Brexit Party earlier this week agreed not to run candidates in 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 promise to put up only token opposition in 40 key seats if the Brexit Party would stand aside in other constituencies.

After the deadline for candidate nominations passed, Farage tweeted that a top Johnson adviser had been calling Brexit Party candidates and offering them jobs if they would withdraw from their races.

"The system is corrupt and broken," Farage said.

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



DANNY LAWSON, PA/AP

Brexit Party Leader Nigel Farage holds a fish during an event at the Grimsby Seafood Village, part of the general election campaign trail, in Grimsby, England, Thursday. Britain goes to the polls on Dec. 12.

WORLD

Protesters make demands, leave Hong Kong dorm

By KEN MORITSUGU
Associated Press

HONG KONG — Protesters who had barricaded themselves in a Hong Kong university this week began to leave Friday after partially clearing a road they had blocked and demanding that the government commit to going ahead with local elections on Nov. 24.

It wasn't immediately clear why the protesters at the Chinese University of Hong Kong were leaving or where they might go next. University's President Rocky Tuen urged everyone to leave, saying the situation was out of control and that the university may need to seek government help.

Earlier, the protesters cleared one lane in each direction on Tolo Highway. Workers sent in to clean up remaining debris and set up traffic cones were heckled by protesters, who pointed bows and arrows at them, government officials said, but the two lanes were reopened around midday.

The protesters said at a 3 a.m. news conference that the road would be blocked again and warned of other unspecified consequences if the government didn't meet their demands within 24 hours.

"In the face of the inconvenience we have caused to the elderly and other young people, we have decided to take the initiative to show our goodwill," one masked protester said. "We would like to reiterate that our target is the government."

The district council elections are seen as a barometer of public sentiment in the semiautonomous Chinese territory, which has been riven by anti-government protests for more than five months. Pro-democracy activists say the government may use the escalating violence as a reason to cancel the elections.

The police, meanwhile, said they would investigate the death of a 70-year-old man who was hit in the head by a brick as a murder case.



VINCENT YU/AP

Protesters prepare food in a canteen at Hong Kong Polytechnic University in Hong Kong on Friday.

The man, who was using his phone to film a skirmish between protesters and others trying to clear a street earlier this week, died Thursday night. The Hong Kong government expressed outrage over what it called "the malicious acts of the rioters."

In London, the Chinese Embassy said Hong Kong Justice Secretary Teresa Cheng was pushed to the ground by activists who were following her and shouting at her, injuring her hand. It wasn't clear if she was pushed or fell in the confrontation.

"We express strong indignation and unequivocally condemn the activists," the embassy said in a

statement. "Now, they are taking such violence abroad and into the U.K."

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam called the attack "barbaric" and said it violated the principles of a civilized society.

Students and other protesters have taken over major campuses in Hong Kong this week, building barricades and stockpiling gasoline bombs and other weapons.

In Taiwan, civic and religious groups protested outside Hong Kong's representative office, calling for an end to what they said were abuses against anti-government protesters in the territory.

Cheng Ying-er, a pastor in the

Presbyterian church that has long been active on pro-democracy issues, said the situation in Hong Kong was a matter of "religious values and human rights."

"Taiwan stands with you all," he told those gathered outside the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taipei.

Taiwanese lawyers have formed a pro bono committee to help any Hong Kong residents who want to seek refuge in Taiwan, said Lin Chun-hung, a member of the group.

"Our lawyers will provide them with assistance so that they can stay here," he said.

Venice flooded again 3 days after near-record high tide

Associated Press



LUCA BRUNO/AP

Municipality workers carry wooden boards to make a trestle bridge in flooded St. Mark's Square in Venice, Italy, on Friday.

VENICE, Italy — Waters are on the rise again Friday in Venice, where the tide is reaching exceptional levels just three days after the Italian lagoon city experienced its worst flooding in more than 80 years.

The high tide Friday is projected to peak at more than 5 feet, which is far beyond normal levels.

Mayor Luigi Brugnaro told reporters he was forced to ask police to block off the iconic St. Mark's Square, which was already covered in knee-high water

on Friday morning. Workers in thigh-high boots began removing the platforms used by the public to cross the square without getting wet.

The city saw the second-worst flooding on record late Tuesday, when the water level reached more than 6 feet above sea level, prompting the Italian government to declare a state of emergency.

On Thursday, the government also approved 20 million euros in funding to help Venice repair the most urgent damage.

Venice's mayor said the damage is estimated at hundreds of millions of euros and blamed cli-

mate change for the "dramatic situation" in the historic city. He called for the speedy completion of the city's long-delayed Mose flood defense project.

The leader of the right-wing League, Matteo Salvini, visited Venice on Friday morning and also called for a common effort to complete the Mose project, which the Italian government now expects to be completed by 2021.

"We can't waste time. This city is crying for help," Salvini said, adding that similar incidents must be avoided.

French police ratchet up evidence search in Epstein assault probe

By JOHN LEICESTER
Associated Press

PARIS — French police are launching a fresh appeal for witnesses and victims to come forward to aid their probe of Jeffrey Epstein and allegations that one of the financier's associates drugged and raped young models.

Police hope the new appeal issued Friday will have a broader reach than a similar call for witnesses they issued on Facebook and Twitter on Sept. 11.

Women who say they were raped and sexually assaulted by one of Epstein's associates, French modeling agent Jean-Luc Brunel, this week told The Associated Press they were disappointed with the limited scope of police efforts to track down witnesses.

Brunel has denied wrongdoing and has said via his lawyer he is willing to talk to investigators.

Police Commissioner Philippe Guichard, whose office is leading the French probe, acknowledged

in an AP interview Friday that their previous appeal for witnesses, worded only in French, had limited success. The new appeal was also being issued in English, he said.

"The witnesses and the victims tell us that they had trouble identifying us and finding the number and reaching us to give evidence," he said.

He also said the evidence search had been hampered by a reluctance to talk in the "closed world" of modeling.

"We imagine that potential victims don't want to speak, to report crimes because they must feel that, 'If I say something, will I keep my job?'" he said.

The French probe was launched in August after Epstein took his life while awaiting trial on sex-trafficking charges.

Thyssia Huisman, one of the women who has testified to French police that she was drugged and raped by Brunel in 1991 at age 18, welcomed the new police effort to

amplify the search for witnesses. She'd been among those who previously told the AP that the police needed to do more.

"That's great," she told the AP on Friday, adding that the September appeal "on Twitter in French, once, is not enough to make people come forward."

She said the use of English in the latest appeal might help reach models and former models who travel frequently and who likely don't speak French.

China lifts its 5-year ban on U.S. poultry

CHINA

RUSSIA

N. KOREA

S. KOREA

JAPAN

Guam

Seoul 53/37

Osan 56/38

Busan 63/49

Sasebo 67/55

Iwakuni 64/59

Okinaawa 56/39

Misawa 43/39

Tokyo 60/44

Sea of Japan

Philippine Sea

Pacific Ocean

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

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

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man proposes to his girlfriend while surfing

HI HONOLULU — A Hawaii man was surfing with his girlfriend when — instead of hanging 10 — he knelt down on one knee on his board and proposed.

Hawaii News Now reported that Lauren Oye said yes just before Chris Garth dropped the ring in the ocean.

Multiple photographers nearby captured the Sunday moment.

Luckily, he had a spare.

Garth said he knew it could go wrong, so he used a stand-in while they were out in the water. The real ring was on shore at Queen's Beach in Waikiki, where the two met years before.

Court rules man can get 'IM GOD' license plate

KY FRANKFORT — A federal court is allowing a Kentucky man to personalize a license plate with the phrase "IM GOD" after a three-year legal battle over the custom engraving.

Court documents show Ben Hart, a self-identified atheist, set out to get the Kentucky plate in 2016. But Hart's request was denied by the state transportation department on the basis it violated antidiscrimination guidelines. News outlets report similar plates had been approved before, including "TRYGOD" and "NOGOD."

Kentucky's American Civil Liberties Union and the Freedom From Religion Foundation got involved to help Hart challenge the decision. In an opinion Wednesday by a U.S. District Court in Frankfort, the judge ruled "vanity plates" are private speech protected by the First Amendment and that the state had violated Hart's rights by denying him the plate.

Police: Homeless man and dog both stabbed

NY NEW YORK — New York City police said a homeless man and his dog were both stabbed during an argument in a Manhattan subway station.

Both survived the attack before dawn Wednesday on the station platform at 14th Street and Sixth Avenue.

The man was treated at Bellevue Hospital and the dog at Manhattan's Animal Medical Center.

The dispute started after the man awoke from sleep on a platform bench. The issue was unclear.

Police are seeking the suspect they say stabbed both the dog owner and the animal in their legs.

Man who bought tiger rug gets 1 day in jail

PA PHILADELPHIA — A New Jersey man who illegally bought a tiger skin rug years after being told it was a crime to do so has been sentenced to one day in jail.

The U.S. attorney's office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania said Wednesday that Loren Varga, 62, was also sentenced to



ELIAS FUNEZ, THE UNION/AP

Fall stroll

A Nevada City, Calif., couple walk their dog along leaf-studded Wolf Creek Trail Wednesday afternoon in Grass Valley, Calif.

two years' of supervised release and is required to pay a \$1,500 fine.

Varga had traveled across state lines to buy the tiger rug, which authorities said he knew was from an endangered species.

The Franklin Township man pleaded guilty in July to violating the Endangered Species Act and the Lacey Act, which bans illegal wildlife trafficking.

Authorities said Varga years ago had tried to buy a similar rug but was warned by federal wildlife officials it was illegal.

Felon accused of joyride in sheriff's stolen SUV

CA SOUTH LAKE TAHOE — The El Dorado County Sheriff's Office said a felon stole a patrol vehicle from the parking lot of a substation in South Lake Tahoe and took it on a joyride before he was captured 50 miles away.

Sheriff's Sgt. Anthony Prencipe said Jacob Wolfe, 30, was arrested wearing a sheriff's baseball cap Wednesday in Placerville. He said the fully loaded SUV went missing Wednesday morning during a patrol shift change.

Wolfe was apprehended shortly after Placerville police disabled one of the SUV's tires with a spike strip on U.S. Highway 50.

He was being held on \$74,000 bail on suspicion of vehicle theft, felon in possession of a firearm, possession of ammunition, evading police and impersonating an officer.

THE CENSUS

76

The amount of marijuana (in pounds) a Nevada state trooper found after pulling over a car for making an unsafe turn at an intersection near downtown Reno. The patrol says troopers stopped the car Tuesday after it failed to yield to a pedestrian and made an unsafe left turn. KOLN-TV reported that they arrested the driver, Isaac Arellano, 30, and a passenger, Maria Salazar-Zuno, 30, on multiple charges including marijuana trafficking.

Men with hammers rob jewelry store while open

PA WASHINGTON — Police said two men armed with hammers robbed a Pennsylvania jewelry store while employees were helping customers that included young children.

KDKA-TV reported employees told police the men went into Kay Jewelers at the Tanger Outlets on Wednesday evening. They told everyone to get on the ground.

Police said they smashed jewelry cases with hammers, stealing the jewelry inside.

Police said seven customers were in the store, including three children. No customers were injured. It was not clear how much was stolen.

Suspect in art heist freed from prison

MA BOSTON — A man who was considered a suspect in the heist of about \$500 million worth of artwork from a Boston museum has been released from prison.

The Boston Globe reported that David Turner was freed on Wednesday after serving 21 years for his role in the 1999 planned armed robbery of an armored car.

According to court records, FBI agents told Turner he was a suspect in the 1990 heist at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum and could receive leniency if he returned the stolen masterpieces. Turner said he knew nothing about the theft.

The art, including works by Rembrandt and Vermeer, has never been recovered.

Turner, 52, will remain on probation for three more years.

Zoo owner charged with animal cruelty counts

VA WINCHESTER — The owner of a Virginia zoo where more than 100 animals were seized earlier this year has been charged with animal cruelty.

A grand jury in Winchester indicted Keith Wilson, owner of Wilson's Wild Animal Park, on 46 animal cruelty counts. Wilson's

nephew, Christian Dall'Acqua, is also facing charges.

The Animal Law Unit of Virginia's Attorney General's Office seized nearly 120 animals in August amid concerns of inadequate care.

Federal inspectors have cited the zoo multiple times for violations.

A judge refused to return the animals to the zoo after a 12-hour hearing held this year in which authorities presented evidence that animals received insufficient food, water and living space.

Iconic Sky Bar candy being made again

MA SUDBURY — The Sky Bar, the multi-flavored chocolate bar divided into four sections, is back on the market after a yearlong hiatus.

The Boston Globe reported that production of the confection has resumed at a suburban gourmet shop less than a year after the owner bought rights to the brand in an online auction.

The Sky Bar made its debut in 1938 but was discontinued last year when the New England Confectionery Co., also known as Necco, went out of business.

Louise Mawhinney, owner of Duck Soup in Sudbury, bought the rights to the Sky Bar in January.

The candy bar, divided into caramel, vanilla, peanut and fudge sections, is available in the store and online for \$1.98.

From wire reports

TELEVISION

BETRAYED

on the battlefield?

Documentary spotlights interpreters left behind in Iraq, Afghanistan

By J.P. LAWRENCE
Stars and Stripes

American troops who fought in Iraq and Afghanistan relied on interpreters to understand the threats around them and help them to communicate with locals.

When the troops came home, the interpreters stayed behind, trying to survive in countries where their work with the Americans meant they and their families lived in constant fear and danger to their lives.

In the documentary “The Interpreters,” filmmakers Andres Caballero and Sofian Khan trace the sometimes tragic and always difficult journeys of three translators as they tried to move themselves and their families to the safety they thought they’d been promised in the U.S.

The film follows the struggles of the three men — one from Iraq and two from Afghanistan — who applied to come to the U.S. under the Special Immigrant Visa program for translators or interpreters who worked alongside American troops. Hundreds applied each year for an SIV after the program was started in 2008, but only a fraction were given the chance to move to America and safety.

“We want people to remember that these wars are not over yet, not for these interpreters who put their lives on the line, thinking we were going to change their country,” Caballero said in a recent phone call.

One of the translators profiled in the film, which premiered on PBS on Monday, is living in hiding in Afghanistan. Another escaped via boat to Europe, but lost most of his family on the way.

The third, whose relationship with the American soldier he worked with forms the core of the documentary, made it to the U.S. but then braved brutal militias and Islamic State fighters when he returned to Iraq to rescue his family and bring them to safety.

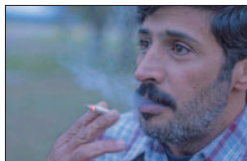
That translator, nicknamed Phillip Morris because of his chain-smoking habit, met Paul Braun, a military policeman with a gray mohawk, in Basra, Iraq, in 2009.

Braun was wary of Morris at first, but over time the two came to consider each other as a “brother from a different mother,” Morris says in the film. When Braun and his unit left Iraq in 2010, the American promised to get Morris and his family to safety.

Morris finally made it to the U.S. on Dec. 15, 2013, as ISIS was gaining ground in Iraq and Syria. But he came without his family.

The film shows the interpreter’s struggles with life in his new home — he lived in Braun’s house in Minnesota for three years — and how he longed for and worried about the family he left behind in Iraq.

Some of the most harrowing parts of the film are about the dangers Morris faced, including ISIS fighters and death threats, when he traveled back to Iraq to get his family and bring them to safety.



PBS photos

An interpreter from Iraq, nicknamed Phillip Morris, above and top left, came to America through the special immigrant visa, or SIV, with help from a soldier, Paul Braun, top right, with whom he worked in Iraq.

Another of the three interpreters hired a smuggler in Turkey to bring him and his family across the Mediterranean Sea to Greece. It was only after his wife and two of his children died when the boat sank that the interpreter learned that his application for a U.S. visa had been approved.

The third interpreter was in hiding in Afghanistan when the documentary was made.

The delays or outright failure to bring interpreters to safety in the U.S. are a betrayal of people who risked everything to help American troops and were promised a safe haven in return, the filmmakers said.

“We had a mission, we asked for help, we promised something in return. Then, we broke the promise,” co-director Khan said by phone.

Fewer applicants are getting visas through the SIV program under the Trump administration, and anti-refugee rhetoric in the United States is growing, the documentary says.



The filmmakers behind the documentary “The Interpreters,” co-directors Andres Caballero, left, and Sofian Khan, consider the delays and, in some cases, outright failure to bring interpreters to safety nothing less than a betrayal. “We had a mission, we asked for help, we promised something in return. Then, we broke the promise,” Khan said.

While Braun said the film has become too politically biased, he encouraged people to see it.

“It’s not a left-aisle, right-aisle issue,” he said. “This is an American issue that we need to stand up for.”

lawrence.jp@stripes.com
Twitter: @jplawrence3

The documentary “The Interpreters” can be streamed through Dec. 10 on the PBS Video App and on pbs.org/interpretersfilm.

Note: Stars and Stripes reporter J.P. Lawrence deployed with Paul Braun to Iraq in 2009.

VIDEO GAMES



A GRIP ON FIT

Slay a bodybuilding dragon with exercise in Ring Fit Adventure for Nintendo Switch

By TODD MARTENS
Los Angeles Times

Early in Ring Fit Adventure, a talking, virtual Pilates-like ring tells you that your “glistering sweat” is beautiful. Your opinion of such a phrase — sorta cute, kinda funny or infuriating — might reflect how you will feel about Nintendo’s latest bid to enter the fitness and tech market.

I rolled my eyes yet ultimately kept playing. Partly because I fell out of a pretty strict fitness regimen the last two hectic months and partly because there was a dragon ahead. But not just any dragon. This is a bodybuilding-obsessed, hypermasculine hunk of dragon idiocy. At long last, here was an antagonist that I recognized and was eager to battle. I could see a teenaged version of this Ring Fit Adventure dragon — imagine a distant cousin of Chernabog from “Fantasia’s” “Night on Bald Mountain” scene — coming up to my junior high locker to ask me how much I could “bench” before laughing in my face.

So run in place I will, holding my surprisingly comfortable and wonderfully adept tech-enhanced plastic ring in front of me. Said ring, which Nintendo calls a “Ring-Con,” is the main peripheral of Ring Fit Adventure, and it can not only measure your strength — exercises are essentially completed by pulling the ring in or out — but help

you complete modified versions of the sorts of activities that you bought your unused sack resistance bands for. It can also measure your heart rate.

Combine the Ring-Con with a leg strap affixed to your thigh, each one holding one of the controllers of the Nintendo Switch, and Ring Fit Adventure turns out to be hiding a pretty potent little exercise machine under its fight-the-dragon adventure premise. The Ring-Con can be used with shoulders and thighs for myriad exercises to target various muscles outside of the main game. In one week with the \$80 device, I’ve largely been using it, and it has forced me to work through some of the core-strengthening exercises my physical therapist thinks I’m doing

every day.

While there are echoes of Nintendo’s Wii Fit, an instant hit when it was unveiled in Japan in 2007 and the victim of stock shortages for months in the U.S. upon its 2008 release, that item is likely collecting dust in most closets these days. Still, there’s no denying the Wii Fit foretold a future where game-like elements would creep into all aspects of our life. Exercise has long been seen as a market for gamification, dating back to pricey, early exercise bikes that showed stationary users pedaling along digital forest preserves to today’s Apple Watches, Fitbits and bounty of apps such as Nuum, the latter of which essentially turns calorie counting into a game.

All of these devices hold aspirational qualities. At long last, they promise, technology will not only make exercise and staying in shape fun, it will be easy! Not really — if you’re not already



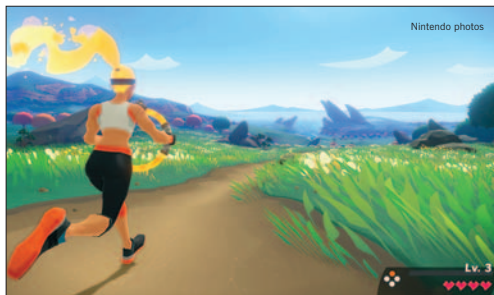
in the large segment of the population that craves physical movement, it’s unlikely an Apple Watch, a Fitbit, an app or Ring Fit Adventure will provide some magical answer to loving exercise. That’s fine, though. These devices needn’t be life-changers so much as different options to either help us get out of a routine or create a new one.

And Ring Fit Adventure’s main game works hard to become part of our daily life. It’s robust, for one. Nintendo says that if one spends between 30 minutes and one hour with the game every day, it could take up to three months to complete. Probably longer if, like me, you choose to mix and match your own exercises with custom routines or minigames, such as one that has you stretching out or pressing in on the Ring-Con to smash robots.

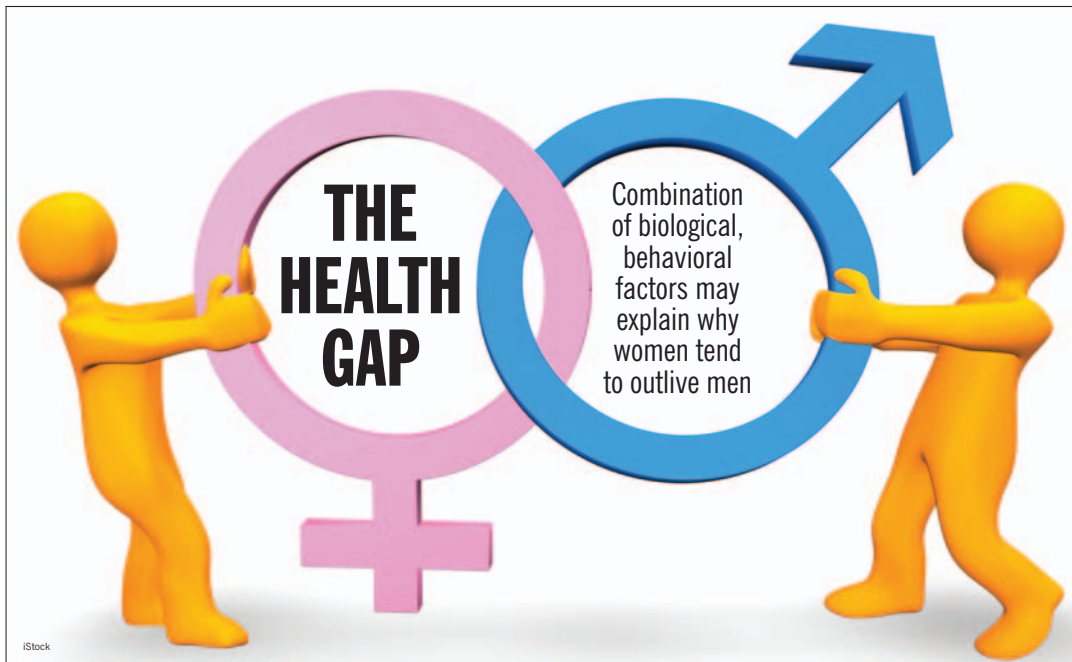
More fun and goofy is a pottery game, which combines squats and arm presses on the Ring-Con to shape and sculpt virtual clay. It can burn a few calories but also works as a party game.

The main quest of player vs. bullying dragon alternates running in place with a host of exercises. We uncover more as we move more deeply into the game, and while this is meant to encourage us to keep playing and learn different fitness routines, as someone who suffers from occasionally paralyzing sciatica I wanted significantly more exercises available at the start of the game.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17



FITNESS



iStock

By ARMIN BROTT
Tribune News Service

On average, men's lives are less healthy — and shorter — than women's. This health disparity exists in part because women take better care of themselves than men do. But several recent studies have found that in many cases, a man and a woman with the same condition may respond to it quite differently. Logic would dictate that they would require different treatments, but we tend to have a unisex approach to medicine (except, of course, to sex-specific conditions such as cervical and prostate cancers). Unfortunately, that approach can be deadly. Here are just a few examples.

Cholesterol. Men with elevated cholesterol levels are more likely to suffer a deadly heart attack than women with the same condition, according to Erik Madsen of the Norwegian University of Science and Technology. For a dozen years, Madsen's team tracked more than 44,000

men and women 60 and under, all with high cholesterol. Over the course of the study, one third as many women as men suffered fatal heart attacks (157 women vs. 553 men). But when you consider that fewer men participated in the study than women (23,525 women and 20,725 men), men actually died at four times the rate as women.

Madsen summed up the disparity this way: "Our results suggest that in middle age, high cholesterol levels are much more detrimental for men than women." Wouldn't it make sense to beef up prevention strategies and develop more aggressive treatments for men with high cholesterol? Sadly, because the medical community tries to be gender blind, males and females are treated the same — and receive the same treatments.

Melanoma. Despite the fact that women and men both have skin and can both develop malignant melanoma — one of the deadliest cancers — more than twice as many men than women die of the disease.

And although Caucasians — both male and female — have a higher melanoma rates than other races, the male-to-female health disparities are pretty consistent among all races. Some of the gender gap can be explained by the fact that men tend to get melanomas on the back, where they have to be spotted by someone else. And there's also men's well-documented reluctance to use sunscreen and to see medical professionals who could catch and treat skin cancers in their early stages. But even taking those factors into consideration, there's still something else going on. Keiran Smalley, a researcher at The Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute in Tampa, Fla., has found that the female sex hormone estrogen may have a protective effect against melanoma and points out that obese men have better survival rates and respond better to melanoma therapy than those with normal BMI. "It is known that fat tissue produces estrogen, and that men who are obese have higher levels of estrogen in their blood," she says.

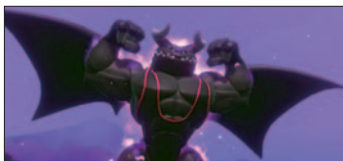
Depression. Half as many men as women are diagnosed with depression. But are men truly less depressed than women? Probably not. So why the difference? A lot of it has to do with how the medical community defines the word "depression." Mental health professionals who screen for depression typically ask about feelings of guilt or worthlessness, sadness, trouble sleeping, and losing interest in formerly pleasurable activities. What those symptoms have in common is that they're the ones that women tend to report. Men, however, tend to express their depression by getting angry, taking risks, becoming workaholics, and abusing alcohol and drugs. But since men aren't being asked about those symptoms, they aren't being diagnosed. When clinicians include both sets of criteria, men are just as likely as women to be diagnosed with depression. And using the "male" criteria only, men are more likely than women to be diagnosed as depressed. Just one more example of how dangerous it can be to treat men and women the same way.

FROM PAGE 16

Squats are great and all, but the level to which my lower back allows me to move is not necessarily always the level that will best a foe. To be fair, difficulty settings can be adjusted to allow for modified versions of exercises, and the Ring-Con and leg strap do a strong job of recognizing body movement and posture. But I'm a masochist and refuse to work out on anything but the higher levels and would thus prefer to choose from different movements rather than adjust the difficulty.

While many games tie abilities or trinkets to advancement, this game design trick only works when the game is essentially teaching the player new abilities. In an instance in which we are the controller, more or less, chances are we know our own abilities better than any piece of tech.

But I know the game has the exercises I want — they are all accessible outside of the adventure — so I'm willing to stick it out, as it's just silly and fun enough to move through hills, bridges and ponds to stop this dragon from spreading his cult-like fitness beliefs throughout a fantasy



Nintendo

A bodybuilding, fitness-obsessed dragon is the antagonist in Nintendo's Ring Fit Adventure.

universe where street fixtures are barbells.

This world, while colorful and welcoming, is sort of akin to if your local gym had vomited all of its equipment throughout your neighborhood, and instead of half-broken scooters littering your sidewalks you saw weights

— and purple monsters that sort of look like they have boxing gloves for hands. These are the dragon's minions, and you defeat them by doing exercises. Simple ones, such as the aforementioned squats, or overhead presses to start, the latter accomplished by trying to squeeze the Ring-Con together.

Ring Fit Adventure won't be the phenom that was Wii Fit, but that's because the latter started this revolution, one in which today includes a wearables market that has exploded beyond fitness to include lifestyle accessories that promise to aid in sleep or relieve pain.

I haven't gotten to the end of the storyline — working out for 90 hours in a span of five days didn't seem wise, even if it were possible — so I don't know if the dragon is redeemed, although I imagine a lesson is learned. But what Ring Fit Adventure is telling us from the start is that those who proclaim that fitness is easy, whether it's a macho dragon, a piece of tech or just the coworker who bikes to work — aren't those of us should be listening to.

Platform: Nintendo Switch

Online: ringfitadventure.nintendo.com

TELEVISION

Latifah's Ursula best part of limp 'Little Mermaid'

By CHRISTI CARRAS
Los Angeles Times

If reviews for ABC's half-acted, half-animated event "The Little Mermaid Live!" prove anything, it's that "the seaweed is always greener in somebody else's lake."

Though the special — starring Queen Latifah as Ursula, John Stamos as Chef Louis, Shaggy as Sebastian and Auli'i Cravalho of "Moana" as Ariel — certainly made a splash last week, critics were divided on the network's execution of the hybrid format. The experiment, which some hailed as seamless nostalgia fare, toggled between live performances and footage from Disney's animated film.

Others dismissed it as a lazy disappointment.

The Times offered a more favorable take on the two-hour broadcast, thanks mainly to Latifah's "knock-

out" performance as the singing sea witch, fabulously clad in "marionette tentacles" and a body-hugging black latex gown. According to reviewer Ashley Lee, the Oscar nominee stole the show with her powerful voice and "ability to engage both the live audience at Disney's 'live-in-theater' — a sound stage in Burbank — and those watching at home."

Variety also enjoyed the production, which it deemed a "charming" and "lovingly made reminder of 'The Little Mermaid's' greatness that cleverly didn't seek to outline its source material," proving to audiences that Disney animated classics can still hold water without full live-action makeovers.

From there, the feedback fish-tanked. The Hollywood Reporter was especially harsh, declaring Cravalho's leading performance "lifeless" and reducing the entire "deflating experience" to "a concert that relied heavily on background video and brief celebrity cameos."

Entertainment Weekly also joined in on the roast, arguing that viewers would have been "better off Googling 'Little Mermaid High School Production,' and then you won't have to suffer through so many awful Muppet advertisements for Facebook."

Responses on Twitter were similarly negative, with many users slamming Shaggy's lack of claws as the fan-favorite crabby crustacean.

"I would have loved to be in on the costume negotiations for Shaggy's Sebastian," one user wrote. "Okay, I'll do it. But absolutely no claws."

Others were quick to point out that the network recruited the crowd as part of the set design, giving guests their own pairs of claws, yet seemed to leave its main crab floundering.

"Okay why does the whole audience have claws but Shaggy doesn't as Sebastian?" another person tweeted.

The mounting internet backlash eventually prompted a defensive response from ABC executive Robert Mills, who clarified, "for those wondering," that "Shaggy wore crab claws in early rehearsals and it looked ridiculous."

He added in another tweet that he didn't know what anyone else thought about the "best ever" show.



Eric McCandless/ABC

Shaggy was Sebastian the crab.



NETFLIX/AP photos

Sam I Am, left, voiced by Adam Devine, and Guy I Am, voiced by Michael Douglas, star in Netflix's animated series "Green Eggs and Ham," which premiered Nov. 8.

Sam I Am gets another chance

Animated 'Green Eggs and Ham' series premieres on Netflix

By LYNN ELBER
Associated Press

When screenwriter Jared Stern was approached about developing Dr. Seuss' "Green Eggs and Ham" as an animated series, he sought advice from one important woman and the consent of another.

"I mentioned it to my grandmother and she said, 'That was your favorite book when you were little. You used to read it to me all the time,'" Stern fondly recalled. "I basically learned to read reading this book."

But he needed more than grandmother behind him. The project required approval from the widow of Theodor Geisel, the writer known as Dr. Seuss. So Stern and fellow executive producer Jeff Kleeman made a pilgrimage to her San Diego-area home about five years ago. Audrey Geisel died last year; her husband died in 1991.

"I had to pitch the story to her and it was incredibly scary," said Stern. "Once it was over, she said something to the effect of, 'I wondered what you were going to do with this. But I think you really captured it, and you have our blessing.'" The result is a 13-episode series that debuted Nov. 8 on Netflix with a voice cast that includes Michael Douglas as the character who turns up his nose at green eggs and ham and Adam Devine as Sam I Am, the dish's cheerleader. Other actors along for the ride include Diane Keaton, Eddie Izzard, Tracy Morgan, John Turturro and Jeffrey Wright.

"Having Ellen DeGeneres as an executive producer certainly helps," Stern said.

Stern understood Audrey Geisel's initial doubts, since he shared them when the project was proposed by Kleeman, president of DeGeneres' production company. Stern's first reaction: Why mess with perfection? Then he gave the 1960 book another look.



"I started flipping through it and realized, 'Oh, it's an odd couple.' There's the grumpy guy who's closed off to things and a playful guy who's open to things. And not only that, it's a road trip because he won't eat the eggs in a car, on a train, on a boat — here, there and everywhere," he said, allowing the original story to be opened up while staying true to its message and spirit.

Devine, of the "Pitch Perfect" movies and TV's "The Righteous Gemstones" and "Modern Family," said he focused on bringing "manic little kid enthusiasm" to Sam I Am.

"I'm basically doing an impression of myself opening Christmas presents. ... just how excited you would get when you're a kid, and you want to explain all your toys and explain how you're going to play with them," Devine said.

The series lets him play with his lines. "The dialogue is just so fun. When you actually get through a chunk where you're doing a lot of Seussian-type dia-

logue, you feel so good about yourself."

Stern, whose big-screen animation writing credits include "The Lego Batman Movie" and "Wreck-It Ralph," has a close familiarity with the various styles of animation, including the now-common CGI. But the majority of the characters and backgrounds in "Green Eggs and Ham" are traditional 2-D hand-drawn animation, which evokes Seuss' charming storybook illustrations and involved 300 artists over the course of four years of production.

That severely tested her patience, joked DeGeneres. But the result is something parents who remember the book warmly can watch with their kids, she said, and without having their own limits pushed.

"It's great for kids and it's great for parents to have on without being annoyed. It's not going to be somebody singing, 'Baby shark, doo doo doo doo doo doo,'" she said reciting the omnipresent video ditty. "That could drive parents crazy."

MOVIES

Going the distance

Actors Damon, Bale shift into overdrive for throwback thrill ride 'Ford v Ferrari'

By JAKE COYLE
Associated Press

France's legendary Le Mans race, the central contest depicted in James Mangold's "Ford v Ferrari," runs more than 3,000 miles over the course of 24 hours. But that's nothing compared to the distance Christian Bale had to cover coming off playing Dick Cheney in "Vice."

"When I first signed up for it, Jim said, 'This is great, we've got six months until we start. Christian weighs 240 pounds,'" recalls Matt Damon. "I was like, 'He weighs what?'"

Bale, sitting next to his co-star, lights up. "He's rolling down the track!" Bale says, laughing. "Without a car!"

"I would just get these periodic updates. But he did it," says Damon, shaking his head. "When I saw him on set, I said, 'How did you lose 70 pounds?' And he just said, 'Didn't eat.'"

In "Ford v Ferrari," Damon plays visionary automotive designer Carroll Shelby and Bale plays maverick British racer Ken Miles. Shelby and Miles were brought together by the Ford Motor Co. to defeat perennial Le Mans champions Ferrari in 1966. They are both dedicated, driven personalities who chafe at the dictates of the overlords at Ford. "Ford v Ferrari," a rare big-budget original film, is about high-speed mavericks shrugging off corporate control to accomplish something singular.

For its two movie stars, it's a story not so unlike the battles of getting movies — movies like "Ford v Ferrari" — made in today's Hollywood.

"The parallels to the movie business, they were pretty easy for all of us to see," says Damon. "Shelby and Ken needed Ford. They weren't going to get anywhere without Ford, and they knew it. And Ford needed them. That's the movie business. There's always that tension."

"There should be," adds Bale. "There has to be that tension in order to create something wonderful. There's got to be love for something and there's got to be a certain amount of hate for it as well. I think both sides understand, 'Hey, we can't do it without them. And they can't do that without us.'"

"But if you get too pally, the films won't be any good," quips Bale.

Bale and Damon were meeting for an interview earlier this fall at the Toronto International Film Festival shortly before "Ford v Ferrari" premiered there, quickly finding glowing reviews as a fine-tuned throwback thrill ride predicated on the swaggering, charismatic performances and easy chemistry of its two stars.

Damon, having flown in from France where he was in the middle of shooting Tom McCarthy's "Stillwater," had his own role-to-role transformation to make. Before posing for a photograph, a makeup artist worked to remove a shoulder tattoo Damon had acquired for the film. "Be gentle," said Damon. "I'm an actor."

"Ford v Ferrari" are their first film together even though Damon, 49, and Bale, 45, are roughly contemporaries.

"I think I've taken a lot of roles that Matt passed on," says Bale. "I've worked thanks to Matt, just not with Matt."

A significant part of the fun of "Ford v Ferrari" is seeing their dynamic together.

Shelby, a sunny, hat-wearing Texan and already a Le Mans champion, was the more famous of the two. He's more adept at balancing their racing needs with those of their corporate overlords. Miles, with his chin upturned, is a proud, pugnacious perfectionist who can't, for a second, suffer fools.

Mangold, the maker of muscular genre films like "Cop Land" and the Oscar-nominated "Logan," had worked with Bale before on the 2007 Western "3:10 to Yuma," and he was convinced Bale was intended to be Miles.

"Jim had taken the script to Christian and I guess he was taking his time with it," remembers Damon. "Jim finally called and he goes, 'This is you! What is taking you so long?!' And Christian's like, 'Do you think I'm a (expletive)?' He goes, 'No, not that part.' The part about him being a perfectionist and a pure racer."

"Yes, he was a real purist and would happily, knowingly win the battle and lose the war at the same time," says Bale, an actor renowned for the intensive immersion of his performances. "They're both absolutely insane. 'They just exhibit it in different ways.'"

Bale and Damon are playing extensions of themselves, Mangold says.

"Matt's been a movie star forever. Shelby was a star in racing forever," said Mangold, speaking by phone from Los Angeles. "And Christian, one of the things I've always felt about him is he's such a lovely, charming, loving person. So many of the characters he's chosen to play along the way are incredible portrayals but are very, very dark. But there's something extremely effervescent and playful and inspired about this character and it's so much closer, to me, about who Christian really is."

"Ford v Ferrari" cost nearly \$100 million to make for 20th Century Fox. Following the studio's acquisition, the movie will be released by the Walt Disney Co., and it will likely be the company's top awards contender. While films sometimes split leads into separate categories, both Bale and Damon will be campaigned as best-actor candidates.

The actors both already have an Oscar (best-supporting actor in "The Fighter" for Bale, best original screenplay for "Good Will Hunting" for Damon). They identify with their characters in that they care more about results than trophies.

"I do think it's different in that in what we do, any awards are a matter of opinion," says Bale. "This is, straight up, who crossed the line first."

Much of the dialogue around "Ford v Ferrari" — a limited model, indeed, in a movie landscape crowded by franchise films — is about what a rarity it is. Bale and Damon have heard that, too.

"People kept saying that to me at the beginning, that they don't make films like this anymore," says Bale. "I was like, 'I don't give a (expletive) about that. I want to know if it's a good story, and do I want to make it. I'm a little bit myopic with it. I don't honestly see a hell of a lot of films. I just don't have a great perspective on the state of the film industry. I don't really know. I just know what's right in front of me. And I feel very happy because they might not be giving us the money, but I'm still getting the bloody work.'"



CHRIS PIZZELLO, INVISION/AP

Matt Damon, left, and Christian Bale, photographed in Toronto in September, share the screen for the first time in their film "Ford v Ferrari," now in theaters.



20th CENTURY FOX/AP

Christian Bale, left, and Matt Damon play high-speed mavericks who have to shrug off corporate control while attempting to accomplish something historic.

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

EDITORIAL

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

BUREAU STAFF

Europe/Mideast
Erik Slavin, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief
slavin.erik@stars.com
+49(0)631.3615.9390, DSN (314)583.9350

Pacific
Aaron Kidd, Pacific Bureau Chief
kidd.aaron@stars.com
+81-42.552.2511 ext. 88380, DSN (315)227.380

Washington
Joseph Cacioli, Washington Bureau Chief
cacioli.joseph@stars.com
(+1)202/886-0033
Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News
bowers.brian@stars.com

CIRCULATION

Mideast
Robert Reisman, Mideast Circulation Manager
robert.w.reisman.naf@gmail.com
+972(0)52-486-0003
DSN (314)583-9111

Europe
Karen Liles, Community Engagement Manager
liles.karen@stars.com
memberservices@stars.com
+49(0)631.3615.9090, DSN (314)583.9090

Pacific
Mari Mori, customerhelp@stars.com
+81-3-6385.3171; DSN (315)229.3171

CONTACT US

Washington
tel (+1) 202-486-0003
633 3rd St. NW, Suite 116, Washington, DC 20001-3502

Reader letters
letters@stars.com

Additional contacts
stars@stars.com/contactus

OMBUSDMAN

Ernie Gates

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OPINION

What a good Taliban peace deal would look like

By DAVID H. PETRAEUS
AND VANCE SERCHUK
Special to The Washington Post

Two months after President Donald Trump declared U.S.-Taliban peace talks "dead," diplomacy with the Afghan insurgents is re-
viewing. With the administration already having negotiated a framework agreement with the Taliban, the key question now facing Washington is whether simply to dust off the settlement that was shelved in September or seek substantial revisions.

The Taliban's position is clear: It maintains that the text from earlier this year "contains answers to all issues" and "only needs signing and implementation." Yet the Taliban's enthusiasm for the deal underscores why the White House should reconsider its terms.

The predicate for any acceptable peace agreement with the Taliban ought to be the organization's total, unequivocal break with international terrorism. It was, after all, two decades ago when the Taliban were in power in Afghanistan where their sheltering of al-Qaida made possible the 9/11 terrorist attacks, and it was the Taliban's subsequent refusal to hand over Osama bin Laden that proved the United States to invade.

The experience of recent coalition military operations in Afghanistan, moreover, underscores that al-Qaida's links to the Taliban remain strong.

Under the deal Trump set aside in September, the Taliban appeared willing to promise that Afghan territory under their control would never again be used to launch terrorist attacks beyond the outside world.

That is a compelling formula at first glance but insufficient for the United States.

For starters, the Taliban as recently as this summer still wouldn't admit that al-Qaida was the 9/11 perpetrator. As long as the group denies the facts about past acts of terrorism hatched under its aegis, it is impossible to take seriously its assurances about preventing future ones.

By ELI LAKE
Bloomberg News

The best defense of President Donald Trump on the first day of the House's public impeachment hearings came from Rep. Elise Stefanik, a New York Republican. She cited "the two most important facts" for Americans trying to understand the inquiry into the president withholding military assistance to Ukraine unless it investigated former Vice President Joe Biden: "No. 1, Ukraine received the aid," she said. "No. 2, there was in fact no investigation into Biden."

Stefanik's defense is shrewd because it sidesteps Trump's hand-waving and gaslighting. It is also dangerous because it reveals Trump's weakness as a leader.

It is not tenable to argue, as the Trump campaign did Wednesday, that the scandal is really a disagreement over whether the president gets to overrule the State Department bureaucracy. This is not about who makes foreign policy. It's about whether Trump used the power of his office to coerce a foreign leader to investigate a domestic rival. For about seven weeks — between July 25 and Sept. 11 — that appeared to be the policy. But following pressure from Congress and protests inside his own government, the aid was released without Ukraine's new president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, announcing an investigation into Biden or his son.

Under no circumstances should Washington disengage from the Afghan battlefield while the Taliban are still rampaging on it.

Even more fundamentally, a Taliban pledge not to allow foreign attacks from Afghan soil does not address the group's relationship with al-Qaida and other Islamist extremists enjoying sanctuary in Pakistan. A peace deal that ignores this makes little sense.

The Taliban must pledge to break ties with designated terrorist groups everywhere and show through active cooperation with the United States their willingness to fight them.

Any Taliban deal that requires all U.S. forces to withdraw from Afghanistan should be a nonstarter. Precisely because the Taliban's counterterrorism promises are untrustworthy, it is essential for the United States to retain its own independent means to protect itself against extremist networks, which now include an Islamic State affiliate, in both Afghanistan and the surrounding region.

Exchanging America's military footprint in Afghanistan for Taliban commitments against al-Qaida would be especially ill-considered. Under such an arrangement, the more the United States fulfills its end of the bargain, the less incentive the Taliban would have to live up to its — and the less ability Washington would have to detect or punish violations.

For that matter, if the Taliban are sincere about turning against groups such as al-Qaida, why wouldn't they — like other U.S. counterterrorism partners around the world — welcome all the international help they can get against a common enemy?

The Taliban's vehement insistence that all U.S. troops leave Afghanistan strongly suggests that their purpose in peace talks

isn't to transform their relationship with the United States but to evict its forces so they can then overthrow the Afghan government — which, by contrast, has been a steadfast U.S. ally against terrorism.

Consequently, the Trump administration should insist that any peace agreement includes a nationwide cease-fire between the Taliban and the Afghan government, which should remain in place as the two parties then negotiate. Under no circumstances should Washington disengage from the Afghan battlefield while the Taliban are still rampaging on it.

The Taliban will, of course, resist all of this — conjuring the specter that the group might abandon diplomacy altogether in favor of continued violence, in the hope the United States will eventually give up and go home.

That is indeed a risk. But the right response isn't to accept a deal that compromises U.S. national security and abandons an important counterterrorism partner. The United States should instead adopt a force posture that is both sustained and flexible, with its Afghan partners continuing to bear the brunt of the overwhelming burden of the fight while the U.S. provides vital support. American diplomacy, meanwhile, can help offset the costs to the United States by securing additional forces and funding from allies worldwide.

Americans and Afghans are united in their desire for peace, but a bad deal with the Taliban would be worse than no deal at all — and from what is known about the accord that was on the table in September, it is likely for the best that Trump backed away.

Rather than reembracing that agreement, the White House should demand a better one, while making clear to the Taliban and other extremists in the region that an enduring U.S. commitment to our Afghan counterterrorism partners is nonnegotiable.

David H. Petraeus is a former director of the CIA, former commander of U.S. Central Command and chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Vance Serchuk, an adjunct senior fellow at the Center for a New American Security, is executive director.

Trump's defense works on impeachment, but not 2020

Stefanik's defense is true not only in this narrow case but in a larger sense as well. Donald Trump has been saved from himself time and again by the insubordination of his own government.

Just look at the second part of Robert Mueller's report on Russian interference in the 2016 elections, where he documents how Trump ordered subordinates to fire him, only to have his orders ignored. Or see Bob Woodward's 2018 book, where he reports how Gary Cohn, then Trump's economic adviser, literally snatched papers off the president's desk to prevent him from pulling out of trade deals.

Former chief of staff John Kelly says he was open with the president about his need for advisers to thwart his worst instincts. When Kelly and Trump were discussing who would replace him at the White House, Kelly says he told the president: "Whatever you do, don't hire a 'yes man,' someone who won't tell you the truth. Don't do that. Because if you do, I believe you will be impeached."

There are times when the insubordination inside the government is intended not to save Trump but to expose him. That explains the leaked transcripts of Trump's phone calls with foreign leaders in his first month in office. The number of former and current senior officials willing to testify against the president in the impeachment hearings — over objections from the White House — fits this mold as well.

Even when Trump gets his way on policies opposed by his advisers, they often find a way to mitigate his initial decisions. A few weeks after Trump made the sudden decision in October to remove remaining U.S. forces from northern Syria, he ordered many of them back to secure oil fields once controlled by Islamic State.

All of this is important because a big part of the Democrats' case against the president is that it doesn't matter if the aid was delivered and the investigation was never opened. In his opening statement on Wednesday, House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff did not ask whether Trump committed a quid pro quo with Ukraine but only if he "sought" to do so.

Schiff would have a point if an impeachment inquiry were a criminal trial. But impeachment is a political process. And for now, there are no Republicans in the House willing to impeach the president for a plan that never came to fruition.

Republicans should be wary, however. Stefanik's defense is an effective rebuttal in the context of impeachment. In the context of a reelection campaign, it's damning. The fact that his corrupt schemes were stymied will likely save Trump from being removed from office. The fact that he had them in the first place is a good argument for voting him out.

Eli Lake is a Bloomberg opinion columnist covering national security and foreign policy.

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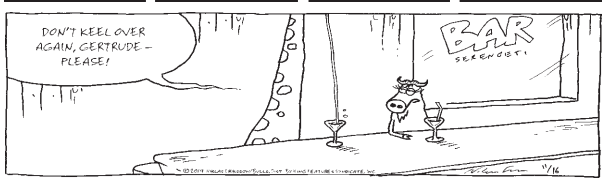
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Candorville



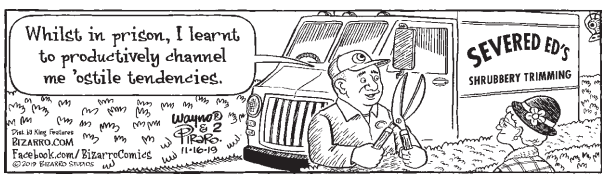
Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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ACROSS

- Trendy
- Dread
- Plane-related
- Chemical suffix
- Fashion magazine
- Blueprint
- Earth (Pref.)
- Theatergoer's souvenir
- Actress
- Campbell
- Good-looking charmer
- Stimpy's pal
- Spy org.
- Counterfeit
- Frozen water
- "Let me think ..."
- Scrambled wd.
- CEO's deg.
- Anthropologist
- Margaret
- Pooch
- Wrigley product
- Bends out of shape
- Game official
- Fragrant tree
- Spongy dessert choice
- Actor's quest
- TV journalist Lisa
- Texter's chuckle
- Hebrew prophet

DOWN

- Noble Italian family
- Rock's Brian
- Actress Neuwirth
- Take five
- Soup container
- Abysmal
- Lennon's love
- Joke
- "Big Blue"
- That girl
- Pirate's chart
- Rx writers
- Midas product
- Artist Chagall
- Solidity
- Thingie
- Della or Pee Wee
- Typeface choices
- Bedouin
- Alaskan city
- Amorphous mass
- French river
- Baldwin of "Aloha"
- Coffee-growing region of Hawaii
- Pharmaceutical
- Carolina college

Answer to Previous Puzzle

CBS	SSN	TAMED
ORO	ONE	URALS
ROB	PAPER	MILL
AME	SPAWN	
LORD	ALE	ARCO
	EAT	REFILL
SHALL		AIDED
GIBILL	BRR	
TESS	OSU	EVES
	SCALP	ALP
WINDCHILL	MIL	
DIANA	LEO	PTA
SITAR	STY	SET

11-16

CRYPTOQUIP

EDZP OSCJQOV CDILTMJQ JV
EGJQG DBDCWTNKW MNBZD
NVD IOCPIQLMOC QNRINZDC
NS NIDCOZ: QOID BDCKJ.
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Today's Cryptquip Clue: C equals R

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STARS AND STRIPES

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Sports

On APBARD

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Deals

Thursday's transactions

BASEBALL
AMERICAN LEAGUE
CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Announced 1B Jose Abreu accepted qualifying offer of a one-year contract.

MINNESOTA TWINS — Announced RHP Jake Odorizzi accepted qualifying offer of a one-year contract.

NEW YORK YANKEES — Named Matt Blake pitching coach.

National League

ATLANTA BRAVES — Signed Phil Willitt to a three-year contract.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

CLEVELAND BROWNS — Activated OL Drew Forbes from IR. Waived WR Antonio

MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Signed OT

Alejandro Collins from the practice squad.

Placed CB Brett Jones on IR. Signed CB John

Keaney and WR Davon Davis to the practice

squad.

National Hockey League

DETROIT RED WINGS — Recalled D Joe

Hickets from Grand Rapids (AHL).

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options for DS Logan Gulda and

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Declined the loan purchase option for M Derrick

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MONTREAL IMPACT — Named Thierry

US National Softball

Team USA — Named Laura

Berg, Howard Bonar, Taria Flores and

Heather Tarr assistant coaches.

TEXAS A&M — Suspended men's basketball

coach Steve Skiles indefinitely for violation

of team rules.

Boxing

At Liverpool, England, Callum Smith

vs. John Ryder. (C) Craig Wober super

middleweight title; Chris Glover vs. Chris

Williams, 10, cruiserweight; James

Tennison vs. Craig Evans, 10, light-

weight; Anthony Fowler vs. James

Smith, 10, super welterweights; Craig Glover

vs. Chris Billam-Smith, 12, for the vacant

commonwealth cruiserweight title.

At MGM Grand, Las Vegas, Deontay

Wilder vs. Chris Eubank, 12, for Wilder's

WBC heavyweight title; Leo Santa Cruz

vs. Miguel Flores, 12, for the vacant WBA

Super World super featherweight title;

Brandon Figueroa vs. Julio Cezar, 12, for

Figueras's WBA World super flyweight

title; Luis Nery vs. Emmanuel Ro-

driguez, 12, bantamweights; Eduardo

Thelmy vs. Eduardo Ramirez, 10, super

featherweights.

At Fantasy Springs, Indio, Calif.,

Andres Cancio vs. Rene Alvarez, 12, for

Figueras's WBA World super flyweight

title; James Smith vs. Anthony Davis, 12,

for Can's WBA featherweight title; Ellis vs.

Eddie Gomez, 10, welterweights.

At Monte Carlo, Monaco, Radzhab

Butaev vs. Alexander Bespoyasov, 12, for

the vacant WBA welterweight title; Zhang

Zhili vs. Sergey Kuzmin, 10, heavy-

weights; Erkinov vs. Tinoch, 12, for the

vacant WBA Continental su-

perweight title; Pavel Suro, 10, rounds, heavy-

weights.

Birmingham, England, Sam Bowen vs.

Anthony Caccato, 12, for Super British

junior lightweight title; Lerrone

Rickman vs. Robert Edwards, 12, for

Commonwealth and vacant British su-

perweight title; Johnnie Casimiro, 12, for

Teto's WBO bantamweight title; Chris Jenkins

vs. James Smith, 12, for Jenkins' British

welterweight title; Sam Maxwell vs. Connor

McGee, 12, for the vacant WBA Super

world super lightweight title.

Cosmopolitan Hotel, Las Vegas,

Oscar De La Hoya vs. Andres Guterres, 12,

for super featherweights; Carl Frampton

vs. Michael Watson, 12, for welterweights;

Carlos Adames vs. Patrick Teixeira, 12,

for junior lightweight; Anthony Davis

vs. William Villa, 10, super lightweight;

Adrian Lopez vs. Luis Coria, 10, feath-

erweights.

Dec 7

At Diriyah, Saudi Arabia, Andrie Ruiz

Jr. vs. Anthony Joshua, 12, for Ruiz's

WBA super heavyweight title; Filip

Hrgovic vs. Eric Molina, 10, for Hrgovic's

WBC International heavyweight title;

Adrian Garcia vs. John Carl, 12, for Garcia's

inter-Continental super featherweight

title.

College football

Thursday's scores

EAST
North Carolina 34, North Carolina 27, OT
E. Michigan 42, Akron 14
Kent 30, Buffalo 10
Miami 44, Bowling Green 3
N. Illinois 31, Toledo 28
W. Michigan 37, Ohio 34, OT

Schedule

Saturday's games
Miami 66, Miami 64 at CCSU (9-1)
Penn State 44 at Harvard (4-4)
Rhode Island 28 at Maine (5-5)
Jacksonville 21 at Marist (3-6)
Indiana 7-2 at Penn State (8-1)
Lehigh 4-2 at Sacred Heart (6-4)
Wagner 1-2 at St. Francis (Pa.) (4-6)
Tulane 6-3 at Temple (heav.) (3-7)
Colgate 1-8 at Lafayette (3-7)
New Hampshire 6-0 at Albany (NY) (6-4)
Duquesne 6-3 at Bryant (2-2)
Georgetown 5-4 at Bucknell (4-6)
St. Francis 6-3 at Fordham (3-7)
Stephen 1-0 at Delaware (4-6)
Yale 9-0 at Cornell (4-6)
Franklin Pierce 4-1 at Merrimack (4-6)
Yale 9-0 at Cornell (4-6)
Yale 9-0 at Princeton (7-2)
Cornell 7-1 at Dartmouth (8-0)
Yale 9-0 at Dartmouth (8-0)
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Alejandro Collins from the practice squad.

Placed CB Brett Jones on IR. Signed CB John

Keaney and WR Davon Davis to the practice

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COLLEGE ATHLETICS/SPORTS BRIEFS

Military academy athletes can now go pro

New guidelines allow for waivers delaying service

By LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Mark Esper has opened the door for athletes at the nation's military academies to play professional sports after they graduate, and delay their active-duty service.

Esper signed a memo last Friday laying out the new guidelines, which says the athletes must get approval from the defense secretary, and it requires them to eventually fulfill their military obligation or repay the costs of their education.

The memo, obtained by The Associated Press, came at the insistence of President Donald Trump, who directed the Pentagon in June to come up with a way to allow athletes to play professional sports immediately upon graduation. Trump gave the Pentagon four months to develop the new policy.

Allowing athletes to delay service has been a hotly debated issue. The Obama administration put a policy in place allowing some athletes to go to the pros and defer their military service.

That policy allowed Navy quarterback Keenan Reynolds to be drafted by the Baltimore Ravens in the sixth round of the 2016 draft after completing a four-year run with the Midshipmen. But the year after he went pro, the Defense Department rescinded the policy.

Then-Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, in an April 2017 memo, said that the service academies "exist to develop future officers," and that graduates would serve as "full-fledged military officers carrying out the normal work and career expectations" of someone who received an education at the taxpayers' expense.

Earlier this year, however, Trump said he was considering allowing athletes to get a waiver so they could play pro sports. He made the announcement during a Rose Garden ceremony in May when he presented the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy to the football team of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. The Army Black Knights completed an 11-2 season and earned the trophy for the second consecutive year.

He issued the order in June, saying that athletes graduating from the academies



JUNG YEON-HE/AP

Defense Secretary Mark Esper signed a memo last Friday laying out new guidelines for athletes at the nation's military academies to play professionally after graduation.

and Reserve Officers' Training Corps should be able to defer their military service obligations due to the "short window of time" they have to "take advantage of their athletic talents during which playing professional sports is realistically possible."

In the new memo, Esper says that military service secretaries can nominate an athlete for a waiver after determining there "is a strong expectation that a Military Service Academy cadet or midshipman's future professional sports employment will provide the DoD with significant favorable media exposure likely to enhance national level recruiting or public affairs missions."

If approved by the defense secretary, the athlete must agree to return to the military and serve their enlistment time, which is usually five years. While in the pro sports job, the athlete's waiver would be reviewed

every year.

If the athletes can't pass required medical standards when it is time to rejoin the military, then they are "encouraged" to serve in a civilian post within the department for no less than five years, according to Esper's memo. If they choose not to do that they would be subject to repayment of their school expenses.

It wasn't clear Thursday what impact Esper's new policy will have on the fate of Noah Song, a pitcher from the U.S. Naval Academy. Song, 22, was the fourth-round draft pick this year of the Boston Red Sox, so he is not covered by the new memo. The right-hander was going to pitch for the minor league team in Lowell during the summer before reporting for duty to train as a flight officer.

Song is seeking a waiver but there has been no decision yet. The Navy declined to

Did you know



Several Navy football players have gone on to have success in the NFL, most notably 1963 Heisman Trophy winner Roger Staubach, below, Midshipmen quarterback from 1962-64. After serving a tour of duty in Vietnam, he joined the Dallas Cowboys in 1969 and guided the team to a pair of Super Bowl victories.



SOURCE: Associated Press; AP file photo.

provide any other details.

Several Navy football players have gone on to have success in the NFL, most notably 1963 Heisman Trophy winner Roger Staubach, a quarterback for the Midshipmen from 1962-64. After serving a tour of duty in Vietnam, he joined the Dallas Cowboys in 1969 and guided the team to a pair of Super Bowl victories.

Another Heisman Trophy winner, Glenn Davis of Army in 1946, was a first-round draft pick of the Detroit Lions but had to serve three years in the Army before making his NFL debut with Detroit in 1950.

In addition, receiver Phil McConkey played for Navy from 1975-78, then served for a years before the New York Giants made him a five-year-old rookie in 1984. He caught a touchdown pass in the Super Bowl for New York and remained in the NFL through 1989.

Briefly

Source: Anthony returning with Trail Blazers

Associated Press

Carmelo Anthony is getting another shot in the NBA.

The 10-time All-Star is returning to the league with the Portland Trail Blazers, a person with knowledge of the details said Thursday.

Anthony hasn't played since a short stint with the Houston Rockets ended a little more than a year ago after just 10 games. But the Blazers hope there is still enough game left in the 35-year-old forward to help them overcome a 4-8 start.

Anthony's deal with Portland was confirmed to The Associated Press on condition of anonym-

ity because it has not been announced. It was first reported by ESPN.com,

which said that Anthony would join the team on its upcoming road trip.

Anthony is a three-time Olympic gold medalist but struggled at the end of his recent stops in Oklahoma City and Houston following 6½ seasons in New York.



Anthony

Georgia Tech appeals NCAA hoops sanctions

ATLANTA — Georgia Tech has formally appealed sanctions levied by the NCAA against its men's basketball program.

The Atlantic Coast Conference school announced its notice of appeal last month and filed its written arguments on Friday.

Georgia Tech is appealing a ban on postseason play this season, as well as scholarship reductions and limits on official visits.

In its appeal, Georgia Tech contends the penalties are based in significant part on an improper aggravating factor. It also claims

that the four-year length of the scholarship reduction penalty is arbitrary, and says the Committee on Infractions did not properly consider NCAA regulations when imposing limits on recruiting visits during home games over the next two seasons.

Charge against Leafs' Matthews dismissed

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — A misdemeanor charge accusing Toronto Maple Leafs star forward Auston Matthews of disorderly conduct and disruptive behavior has been dismissed.

Court records indicate the charge was dismissed Wednesday.

The 22-year-old Matthews had been charged over the summer in connection with a May incident in Scottsdale.

According to the Scottsdale Police Department, a female security guard at a condominium complex said Matthews was among a group of men who allegedly tried to enter her locked vehicle the morning of May 26.

According to a police report, the guard said the men apparently were intoxicated and that when she confronted them, Matthews moved away, dropped his pants and grabbed his buttocks. He was still wearing underwear, according to the report.

NHL



CHRIS O'MEARA/AP

Lightning right wing Nikita Kucherov, right, celebrates his goal against the New York Rangers with defenseman Victor Hedman during the first period of Thursday's game in Tampa, Fla.

Roundup

Kucherov has 3 goals as Bolts blast Rangers

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Nikita Kucherov had a goal and three assists, Steven Stamkos scored his 399th career goal and added two assists, and the Tampa Bay Lightning routed the New York Rangers 9-3 on Thursday night.

Tampa Bay's nine goals tied a team record. Five came on the power play, which also matched the franchise mark.

Kucherov had a goal and a pair of assists as Tampa Bay scored four times in the opening seven minutes. Stamkos got his second goal in 10 games on the power play during a four-goal second that made it 8-1.

Alex Killorn scored two power-play goals and picked up an assist, and Andrei Vasilevsky stopped 20 shots to tie Ben Bishop for the most wins by a Tampa Bay goalie with 131.

The Lightning, who hadn't played since Saturday when they completed back-to-back wins over Buffalo in Stockholm, also got goals from Luke Schenn, Ondrej Palat, Pat Maroon, Kevin Shattenkirk and Yanni Gourde. Victor Hedman had three assists and Gourde recorded two assists.

Filip Chytil scored two goals and Chris Kreider also scored for the Rangers. Alexander Georgiev was pulled early on after allowing four goals on nine shots, before returning to start the third period. Henrik Lundqvist replaced Georgiev and gave up four goals on 19 shots.

Jets 4, Panthers 3: Mark Scheifele scored late in the third period to lift visiting Winnipeg over Florida.

Adam Lowry, Nikolaj Ehlers and Josh Morrissey also scored for the Jets. Patrik Laine had three assists, including his 200th career point. Laurent Brossoit stopped 33 shots.

Hurricanes 5, Sabres 4 (OT): Dougie Hamilton scored in overtime and visiting Carolina overcame a late blow led to beat Buffalo.

Hamilton capped a back-and-forth game that featured three goals in the final 6:25 of regulation. After Buffalo's Johan Larsson tied it with 41 sec-

onds left in the third period, Hamilton scored 2:32 into the extra session on a slap shot from the right circle after Ryan Dzingel drove to the net and left the puck for Hamilton.

Wild 3, Coyotes 2: Jordan Greenway deflected in a goal with 7:49 remaining, and host Minnesota beat Arizona.

Zach Parise had a goal and an assist and Kevin Fiala scored for the fourth time in six games for Minnesota, which had just finished a four-game West Coast Swing. The Wild were tied for an NHL-low 13 points entering the day amid a road-heavy early schedule. They are 4-1-1 at home.

Oilers 6, Avalanche 2: Connor McDavid had three goals and three assists and Leon Draisaitl had five assists — career highs for points in a game for both players — as host Edmonton routed Colorado.

Ryan Nugent-Hopkins had two goals and Zack Kassian also scored for the Oilers (13-6-2), who have won three of four.

Stars 4, Canucks 2: Tyler Seguin had a goal and an assist and visiting Dallas beat Vancouver for their sixth win in seven games.

Justin Dowling, Alexander Radulov and Blake Comeau also scored for Dallas (10-8-2). Joe Pavelski and Miikka Heiskanen each added two assists. The Stars, who beat the Flames 3-1 Wednesday night in Calgary, are 6-0-1 in their last seven games.

Sharks 5, Ducks 3: Brent Burns scored on the power play and Evander Kane had a short-handed goal in the third period, helping San Jose beat Anaheim for its fifth straight win.

Tommy Hertl scored twice for the Sharks, who added a road victory to four previous home wins.

Kings 3, Red Wings 2 (OT): Alex Iafallo scored 23 seconds into overtime and host Los Angeles beat Detroit.

Kings forward Adrian Kempe scored with 1:48 remaining in the third period to tie the game at 2-2, and Iafallo got a shot into an open net after Drew Doughty's pass caromed off the boards. The Kings won consecutive games for the second time this season.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	18	11	3	4	26	64	48
Montreal	18	10	5	3	23	64	56
Florida	19	9	9	1	21	53	70
Toronto	20	9	7	4	22	68	67
Buffalo	19	9	6	3	21	53	61
Tampa Bay	18	9	5	2	20	61	55
Detroit	21	7	12	2	16	48	78
Ottawa	18	10	6	2	22	51	61

Metropolitan Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	20	14	4	32	79	60
N.Y. Islanders	17	13	3	1	27	54
Philadelphia	19	11	7	1	29	61
Carolina	18	11	7	1	23	66
Pittsburgh	18	10	6	2	22	60
N.Y. Rangers	17	9	7	2	28	62
Columbus	18	6	8	4	16	62
New Jersey	17	8	8	4	14	65

Western Conference

Central Division	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
St. Louis	19	12	3	3	28	59	54
Colorado	19	11	7	2	24	68	55
Winnipeg	20	11	8	1	23	65	61
Dallas	19	10	8	2	22	59	61
Nashville	19	9	9	3	21	68	69
Chicago	18	7	7	4	18	50	56
Minnesota	19	7	11	1	15	50	65

Pacific Division

Arizona	20	11	7	2	24	58	49
Vancouver	20	10	7	3	23	65	54
Calgary	21	10	8	3	23	60	61
Vegas	20	9	8	3	21	59	61
Anaheim	20	9	9	2	20	53	58
San Jose	20	9	10	1	19	59	70
Los Angeles	19	7	11	1	15	49	69

Note: Two points for a win, one point for an overtime loss.

Note: 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.

Thursday's games

Winnipeg 4, Florida 3
Tampa Bay 9, N.Y. Rangers 3
Carolina 5, Buffalo 4, OT
Minnesota 3, Arizona 2
Edmonton 6, Colorado 2
San Jose 5, Anaheim 3
Dallas 4, Vancouver 2
Los Angeles 3, Detroit 2, OT

Friday's games

Pittsburgh at New Jersey
Boston at Toronto
St. Louis at Columbus
Montreal at Washington
Philadelphia at Ottawa

Saturday's games

Carolina at Minnesota
Calgary at Arizona
Dallas at Edmonton
Vegas at Los Angeles
Winnipeg at Tampa Bay
Ottawa at Buffalo

N.Y. Rangers at Florida
St. Louis at Philadelphia
Toronto at Pittsburgh
Washington at Boston
New Jersey at Montreal

Anaheim at St. Louis
Colorado at Nashville
Colorado at Vancouver
Detroit at San Jose

Sunday's games

Calgary at Vegas
Buffalo at Chicago

Thursday

Lightning 9, Rangers 3

N.Y. Rangers 3, Tampa Bay 9

First Period—1. Tampa Bay, Schenn (Pat Maroon, Kucherov), 2:37 (pp).

Second Period—1. Tampa Bay, Killorn 4 (Kucherov, Stamkos), 5:41 (pp).

Third Period—1. Tampa Bay, Stamkos 5 (Gourde, Paquette), 14:17.5. Tampa Bay, 12:24 (pp). 12. N.Y. Rangers, Hamilton 9 (Nugent-Hopkins, Kassian), 14:27.

Second Period—6. Tampa Bay, Stamkos 6 (Gourde, Paquette), 14:17.5. Tampa Bay, 12:24 (pp). 12. N.Y. Rangers, Hamilton 9 (Nugent-Hopkins, Kassian), 14:27.

Third Period—10. N.Y. Rangers, Chytil 5 (Hajek, Panarin), 2:22 (sh). 11. Tampa Bay, Stamkos 7 (Gourde, Paquette), 14:17.5. Tampa Bay, 12:24 (pp). 12. N.Y. Rangers, Hamilton 9 (Nugent-Hopkins, Kassian), 14:27.

Power-play opportunities—N.Y. Rangers 0 of 4; Tampa Bay 5 of 8.

Shots on goal—N.Y. Rangers 5-10-23. Tampa Bay 10-14-35.

Goalies—N.Y. Rangers, Lundqvist 4-31 (19 shots 15 saves); Georgiev 4-41 (26-21). Tampa Bay, Hertl 9-17 (32-30).

A-19,092 (19,092). T-2:41.

Hurricanes 5, Sabres 4 (OT)

Carolina 5, Buffalo 4

First Period—1. Buffalo, Sheary (Rodrigues), 4:26. 2. Carolina, Gaudin (Edmondson, Perses), 12:07. 3. Carolina, Aho (Svechnikov, Teravainen), 17:17 (pp).

Second Period—4. Carolina, Teravainen 5 (Svechnikov, Aho), 0:49. 5. Buffalo, Larsson 4 (Sheary, Rodrigues), 12:07.

Third Period—6. Buffalo, Jokiharju 2. 13:35. 7. Carolina, Svechnikov 5 (Rodrigues, Sheary), 17:17. 8. Buffalo, Larsson 4 (Sheary, Rodrigues), 19:19.

Overtime—9. Carolina, Hamilton 9 (Necas), 2:28.

Goalies—Carolina 10-17-39. Buffalo 9-14-33.

Power-play opportunities—Carolina 2 of 3; Buffalo 1 of 3.

Shots on goal—Carolina 9-9-31. Buffalo 9-14-33.

Goalies—Carolina, Mrazek 9-3-1. (33 shots 23 saves). Buffalo, Hutton 6-22 (29-24).

A-16,603 (19,070). T-2:47.

Jets 4, Panthers 3

Winnipeg 4, Florida 3

Second Period—1. Winnipeg, Morrisey 2 (Laine, Scheifele), 3:45. 2. Florida, Barkov 6 (Hoffman, Laine), 10:35.

Third Period—3. Winnipeg, Ehlers 8 (Laine, Scheifele), 4:28. 4. Florida, Trocheck 2 (Boyle, McDonough), 7:13. 5. Winnipeg, Scheifele 6 (Laine, Connor), 14:52.

6. Winnipeg, Loui (Connor), 17:02. 7. Florida, Trocheck 3 (Hoffman, Parise), 19:25.

Shots on goal—Winnipeg 4-17-9-30. Florida 10-15-12-37.

Power-play opportunities—Winnipeg 0 of 0; Florida 1 of 3.

Goalies—Winnipeg, Brossi 3-2-0 (37 shots 34 saves). Florida, Bobrovsky 6-4-4 (30-26).

A-12,190 (19,250). T-2:20.

Wild 3, Coyotes 2

Arizona 3, Minnesota 2

First Period—1. Minnesota, Fiala 4 (Parise), 14:38.

Second Period—2. Arizona, Garland 9 (Schultz), 14:38.

Third Period—3. Minnesota, Parise 5 (Zucker, Koliu), 5:39 (pp). 4. Arizona, Crouse 3 (Ekmann-Larsson, Kessel), 7:32. 5. Minnesota, Greenway 1 (Eriksson EK, Brodin), 12:11.

Shots on goal—Arizona 8-8-13-29. Minnesota 20-9-5-33.

Power-play opportunities—Arizona 0 of 3; Minnesota 1 of 3.

Goalies—Arizona, Raanta 3-2-2 (34 shots 34 saves). Minnesota, Dubnyk 4-8-13-27.

A-17,079 (18,064). T-2:31.

Oilers 6, Avalanche 2

Colorado 4, Edmonton 2

First Period—1. Colorado, Burakovsky 6 (Kadri), 1:20. 2. Edmonton, Nugent-Hopkins 4 (McDavid, McDavid), 6:16.

Edmonton, McDavid 12 (Neal, Klefbom), 12:14 (pp). 4. Edmonton, Kassian 7 (McDavid, Draisaitl), 2:02. Edmonton, McDavid 13 (Draisaitl, Klefbom), 15:51 (pp).

Second Period—5. Edmonton, McDavid 14 (Klefbom, Draisaitl), 8:32 (pp). 7. Colorado, Burakovsky 7 (Johnson), 16:36.

Edmonton, Nugent-Hopkins 5 (McDavid, Draisaitl), 18:15 (pp).

Shots on goal—Colorado 11-14-33. Edmonton 10-13-5-28.

Power-play opportunities—Colorado 0 of 5; Edmonton 4 of 6.

Goalies—Colorado, Werner 1-1-0 (18 shots 13 saves). Buffalo, Hutton 6-9-9.

Edmonton, Smith 6-5-1 (33-31).

A-17,118 (18,641). T-2:32.

Sharks 5, Ducks 3

San Jose 1, Anaheim 3

First Period—1. Anaheim, Rakell 6 (Silverberg), 1:00. 2. San Jose, Hertl 9 (Goodrow, Meier), 6:44.

Second Period—3. Anaheim, Silverberg 9 (Rakell, Henrique), 13:00 (pp). 4. San Jose, Hertl 10 (Burns, Meier), 18:28.

Third Period—5. San Jose, Burns 5 (Kane, Eriksson), 8:05 (pp). 6. San Jose, Kane 2 (Silverberg, Burns), 12:02 (sh). 7. Anaheim, Max Jones 2 (Rowney, Stecher), 15:50. 8. San Jose, Couture 3, 19:21.

Shots on goal—San Jose 11-15-35. Anaheim 10-11-11-32.

Power-play opportunities—San Jose 1 of 3; Anaheim 1 of 4.

Goalies—San Jose, Mar-Jones 7-7-1 (32 shots 29 saves). Anaheim, Horta 6-9-9 (35-30).

A-16,007 (17,174). T-2:29.

Stars 4, Canucks 2

Dallas 2, Vancouver 2

First Period—1. Dallas, Dowling 2 (Ja. Benning, Kessel), 14:38.

Second Period—2. Dallas, Comeau 1 (Fleury), 14:38. 3. Vancouver, Virtanen 6 (Horvat, Pearson), 5:21. 4. Vancouver, Stecher 2 (Pettersson, Jo.Benn), 11:35-29 (pp).

Third Period—6. Dallas, Radulov 6 (Pavelski), 17:24.

Shots on goal—Dallas 10-9-10-29. Vancouver 9-12-14-34.

Power-play opportunities—Dallas 0 of 2; Vancouver 1 of 3.

Goalies—Dallas, Khudobin 4-3-1 (34 shots 29 saves). Vancouver, Markstrom 5-5-3 (29-25).

A-16,642 (18,910). T-2:25.

Kings 3, Red Wings 2 (OT)

Detroit 0, Los Angeles 2

First Period—1. Los Angeles, Kopitar 7 (Walker, Iafallo), 5:47.

Second Period—2. Detroit, Bertuzzi 7 (Mantha), 4:36.

Third Period—3. Detroit, Bertuzzi 8 (Larkin, Mantha), 2:58. 4. Los Angeles, Kessel 2 (Roy, Kopitar), 18:12.

Overtime—5. Los Angeles, Iafallo 4 (Kopitar, Doughty), 0:23.

Shots on goal—Detroit 15-21-21. Los Angeles 11-13-6-1-31.

Power-play opportunities—Detroit 0 of 1; Los Angeles 0 of 3.

Goalies—Detroit, Bernier 5-4-2 (31 shots 25 saves). Los Angeles, Quick 4-8-0 (21-19).

A-16,871 (18,230). T-2:26.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL



MATT STAMEY/AP

Florida's Kerry Blackshear Jr. shoots over Towson's Nakye Sanders on Thursday in Gainesville, Fla. The Gators won 66-60. Blackshear had 13 points and 13 rebounds.

Top 25 roundup

No. 15 Gators escape scare from Tigers

Associated Press

GAINESVILLE, Fla.—Boasting a No. 6 ranking before the season started, Florida has resembled more of a pretender than a contender in the early going.

Freshman Scottie Lewis scored 15 points in his first start, and the 15th-ranked Gators escaped with a 66-60 victory over Towson on Thursday night.

Graduate transfer Kerry Blackshear Jr. had 13 points and 13 rebounds in his third game with his new team as Florida (2-1) bounced back from a dispiriting home loss to Florida State. Andrew Nembhard had 11 points and nine assists for the Gators.

The Gators were 18-point favorites but had to rely on free throws from Lewis and Nembhard in the final minutes to secure the win.

"I thought it was a high-level game," Towson coach Pat Skerry said. "Credit to Florida, we knew they were a terrific team. Extremely well-coached, they defend, they get good players, they were organized."

No. 18 Saint Mary's 81, Long Beach State 63: At Moraga, Calif., Tommy Kuhse had a career-high 20 points and eight assists and the Gaels bounced back three days after losing their home opener with a win over the 49ers.

The blowout comes after coach Randy Bennett's team won their first two games by two points before losing 61-59 to Winthrop on Monday.

No. 19 Arizona 87, San Jose State 39: Zeke Nnaji scored 26 points, made all eight of his shots and grabbed 11 rebounds, helping the host Wildcats trounce the Spartans.

Arizona (3-0) dominated the third straight opponent to open the season, shutting down the Spartans (1-2) defensively from the opening tip.

No. 3 Spartans edge No. 12 Pirates

Freshman plays hero in Michigan State's win over Seton Hall

By TOM CANAVAN
Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J.—No. 3 Michigan State and No. 12 Seton Hall put on a mid-November show worthy of March Madness.

It was showdown of two of college basketball's best teams and a showcase of the nation's marquee players.

Of course, the eventual hero was a freshman who had failed to score a point in his first two games.

That's college basketball, though.

Freshman Malik Hall hit a layup with 26 seconds to play and scored all 17 of his points in the second half as Michigan State overcame a late five-point deficit to beat Seton Hall 76-73 Thursday night.

"For a Nov. 14 college basketball game, the atmosphere was great," Seton Hall coach Kevin Willard said. "It was two high-level teams, with high-level players going at it. It was a lot of fun."

Both Willard and Tom Izzo of Michigan State are going to like what they saw from their preseason All-Americans fighting adversity. Myles Powell of Seton Hall (2-1) had a high ankle sprain and Cassius Winston of Michigan State (2-1) played his second game following the tragic death of his brother, Zachary, last weekend.

Winston scored 17 of his 21 points in the second half for the Spartans (2-1). Powell scored 37 points in a game most felt he would miss.

"I don't know who could guard Powell," Izzo said. "He just did an incredible job. He deserves every accolade he gets, but I'll tell you what, Cassius Winston does, too. It might not seem like it tonight, but to play with a broken heart he has, and to play with the mental part of the game that he's been through, I think we saw two superstar guards tonight, but in different ways."

Winston made two free throws with 3.4 seconds to play to give Michigan State its final three-point lead. The Spartans then saw a desperation half-court heave by Powell bounce off the top of the rim as the final buzzer sounded.

Hall, who didn't score in the Spartans' first two games, made all seven of his shots, including three three-pointers. His only missed shots were two free throws with 3:39 to play.

"The kid played terrific," Willard said of Hall. "Seven of seven and making the shots he made, that was really game. He's a game changer."

Powell finished 12-for-27 from the field with six rebounds and two assists.

"I don't know if God could have stopped him on some of those shots tonight," Izzo said of Powell.



ADAM HUNGER/AP

Michigan State freshman forward Malik Hall hangs from the rim after a dunk against Seton Hall during the second half of Thursday's game in Newark, N.J. Hall hit a layup with 26 seconds to play and scored all 17 of his points in the second half as the Spartans rallied past the Pirates 76-73.

Did you know

Freshman Malik Hall didn't score in the Spartans' first two games, but made all seven of his shots — including three from beyond the arc — for 17 points Thursday.

SOURCE: Associated Press

those shots tonight," Izzo said of Powell.

Trailing 66-62 after Winston hit a three-pointer with 4:51 to

play, Sandro Mamukelashvili hit a three-pointer to ignite a 9-0 Pirates run that Powell ended with his fifth and sixth three-pointers of the game to give Seton Hall a 71-66 lead with 2:41 to play.

Rocket Watts closed the gap to two points with a line-drive three-pointer from the right wing with 1:44 to go and Winston, who picked up two early fouls, briefly put the Spartans back in front 72-71 with a three-pointer with 1:02 left.

Powell, who played 34 minutes on what his coach described as a high ankle sprain he suffered last weekend, gave Seton Hall its last lead when he hit two free throws with 43 seconds to go.

Hall's layup put Michigan State ahead 74-73. Mamukelashvili drove the lane and missed a shot on which the officials ignored

contact. After Winston missed the front end of a 1-and-1 to 14 seconds to go, Powell drove the lane, drew contact and didn't get a call.

Willard felt his players were fouled but insisted the officials called a good game.

Myles Cale added 12 for the Pirates (2-1).

The game drew a crowd of 14,051, and the fans witnessed a contest with 14 lead changes, nine ties and neither team leading by more than seven points.

Big picture

Michigan State: The talented Spartans should move up in the AP Top 25 with No. 1 Kentucky's loss.

Seton Hall: The Pirates appear to be an NCAA Tournament team for the fifth straight season.

MLB



ALEX GALLARDO, ABOVE, AND JOHN BAZEMORE, BELOW/A/P

Above: The Los Angeles Angels' Mike Trout won his third MVP Award despite being limited to only 134 games. His season ended early due to surgery on his foot. Below: The Los Angeles Dodgers' Cody Bellinger edged Christian Yelich to win his first NL MVP Award. Yelich's season ended early when he broke his kneecap.



Most valuable

Trout, Bellinger keep biggest honors in Southern California

By JAKE SEINER
Associated Press

It had never been so difficult for Mike Trout to arrive at the ballpark, get his mind and body ready, and perform at the level baseball fans have come to expect.

And still, nobody did it better in the American League.

Trout overcame injury and tragedy to win his third AL MVP award Thursday night, getting 17 of 30 first-place votes in balloting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America. Alex Bregman of the Houston Astros was second, and that duo combined for all the first- and second-place votes. Trout also won the award in 2014 and '16.

"This year was probably the toughest year," Trout said.

Dodgers outfielder Cody Bellinger made it a Southern California sweep, beating out the Milwaukee Brewers' Christian Yelich for the NL prize. Bellinger got 19 of 30 first-place votes, Yelich got 10, and Washington's Anthony Rendon got one while finishing third. Yelich won the award last year.

Trout had season-ending foot surgery in September while the Angels languished to a fourth-place finish. The outfielder played just 134 games but still set a career high with 45 homers. He batted .291, led the majors with a .438 on-base percentage and drove in 104 runs.

The 28-year-old shined even following the death of close friend and teammate Tyler Skaggs on July 1. Trout smashed a 454-foot homer wearing Skaggs' No. 45 in the team's first game back, when LA pitchers threw a combine no-bitter.

After often deferring to veterans as a young star, Trout put himself into a leadership role following Skaggs' death.

"It was my time," Trout said, adding: "It was extremely tough mentally and emotionally for us at the end of the year."

Trout is the 10th three-time MVP and joins an elite group: Barry Bonds, Yogi Berra, Roy Campanella, Joe DiMaggio, Jimmie Foxx, Mickey Mantle, Stan Musial, Albert Pujols, Alex Rodriguez and Mike Schmidt. Bonds is the only player with more than three MVPs — he won seven. Only Musial was younger when he won his third.

Trout also has a record-tying four second-place finishes. He's been the winner or runner-up in seven of his eight full seasons.

Skaggs was found dead in his hotel room before the start of a series against the Texas Rangers. The Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office said the 27-year-old died after choking on his vomit with a toxic mix of alcohol and the painkillers fentanyl and oxycodone in his body. MLB is cooperating with a federal investigation after Eric Kay, a 24-year employee of the Angels' PR department, told the Drug Enforcement Agency he had provided opioids to Skaggs and used them with the pitcher for years, according to ESPN.

The 24-year-old Bellinger and his loose, left-handed swing launched 47 home runs with a .305 average, 115 RBIs and a 1.035 OPS.

AL MVP voting

NEW YORK — Voting for the 2019 American League Most Valuable Player Award, with first-, second- and third-place votes and total points on a 14-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1 basis:

Player	1st	2nd	3rd	Total
Trout, Angels	17	13	—	355
Bregman, Astros	13	17	—	335
Semien, A's	—	—	22	228
LeMahieu, Yankees	—	—	6	178
Bogaerts, Red Sox	—	—	1	147
Chapman, A's	—	—	—	89
Springer, Astros	—	—	—	69
Betts, Red Sox	—	—	—	67
Cruz, Twins	—	—	—	62
Cole, Astros	—	—	—	61
Verlander, Astros	—	—	1	56
Deveaux, Red Sox	—	—	—	40
Polanco, Twins	—	—	—	20
Meadows, Rays	—	—	—	15
Lindor, Indians	—	—	—	13
Santana, Indians	—	—	—	9
Torres, Yankees	—	—	—	8
Rosario, Twins	—	—	—	8
Abreu, White Sox	—	—	—	5
Kepner, Twins	—	—	—	2
Martinez, Red Sox	—	—	—	2
Moncada, White Sox	—	—	—	1
Morton, Rays	—	—	—	1
Olson, A's	—	—	—	1
Soler, Royals	—	—	—	1

NL MVP voting

NEW YORK — Voting for the 2019 National League Most Valuable Player Award, with first-, second- and third-place votes and total points based on a 14-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1 basis:

Player	1st	2nd	3rd	Total
Bellinger, Dodgers	19	10	—	362
Yelich, Brewers	10	18	—	317
Rendon, Nationals	1	1	24	242
Marte, Diamondbacks	—	—	3	198
Acuna, Braves	—	—	1	155
Arenado, Rockies	—	—	1	120
Alonso, Mets	—	—	—	102
Freeman, Braves	—	1	—	90
Soto, Nationals	—	—	—	45
deGrom, Mets	—	—	—	44
Donaldson, Braves	—	—	—	27
Story, Rockies	—	—	—	26
Flaherty, Cardinals	—	—	—	9
Realuto, Phillies	—	—	—	8
Grandal, Brewers	—	—	—	4
Muncy, Dodgers	—	—	—	4
Strassburg, Nationals	—	—	—	4
Suarez, Reds	—	—	—	4
Ryu, Dodgers	—	—	—	4
Goldschmidt, Cardinals	—	—	—	2
Wong, Cardinals	—	—	—	2
Pillar, Giants	—	—	—	1
Scherzer, Nationals	—	—	—	1

He was the best player on the NL's top team in the regular season, propelling Los Angeles to 106 wins. He's the 10th different Dodgers player to win MVP and first since Clayton Kershaw in 2014.

Bellinger teared up after learning he'd been chosen, saying it was the first time he had cried since the death of his first dog, Angel the golden retriever. He was especially emotional after hugging his father — former big leaguer Clay Bellinger.

"He was just there for me every single day," Cody Bellinger said.

It was clear by midseason that Bellinger and Yelich were the favorites for the NL prize. Yelich had better offensive numbers, including a league-leading .329 average and a major league-best 1.00 OPS, but his season was cut short in September when he broke his right kneecap on a foul ball.

"I pretty much figured that once I got hurt, that was a wrap on that but I guess you never really know until the end. But that was my mindset. As soon as I got hurt, I figured all that MVP stuff went out the window," Yelich said.

AP Freelance writer Andrew Wagner contributed to this report.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

TOP 25 SCHEDULE

Saturday's games

- No. 1 LSU at Mississippi
- No. 2 Ohio State at Rutgers
- No. 3 Clemson vs. Wake Forest
- No. 4 Alabama at Mississippi State
- No. 5 Georgia at No. 13 Auburn
- No. 6 Oregon vs. Arizona
- No. 7 Minnesota at No. 23 Iowa
- No. 8 Texas vs. UCLA
- No. 9 Penn State vs. No. 24 Indiana
- No. 10 Oklahoma at No. 12 Baylor
- No. 11 Florida at Missouri
- No. 14 Michigan vs. Michigan State
- No. 15 Wisconsin at Nebraska
- No. 16 Notre Dame vs. No. 21 Navy
- No. 17 Cincinnati at South Florida
- No. 18 Memphis at Houston
- No. 19 Boise State vs. New Mexico
- No. 22 Texas at Iowa State
- No. 25 Oklahoma State vs. Kansas

SERVICE ACADEMIES

Air Force (7-2)

at Colorado State (4-5), Saturday
Last week: Did not play

Army (4-6)

vs. VMI (4-6), Saturday
Last week: Defeated UMass 63-7

Navy (7-1)

at Notre Dame (7-2), Saturday
Last week: Did not play

POWER FIVE STANDINGS

ACC			
Atlantic Division		Overall	
	W	L	W L
Clemson	7	0	10 0
Wake Forest	3	2	7 2
Florida State	4	4	5 5
Louisville	3	3	5 4
Boston College	4	4	5 4
NC State	4	4	4 6
Syracuse	0	5	3 6
Coastal Division			
Virginia	5	2	7 3
Pittsburgh	4	2	6 3
Texas Tech	2	3	3 3
North Carolina	4	3	6 4
Duke	2	3	4 5
Georgia Tech.	5	2	7 3
Big 12			
Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W L
Baylor	6	0	9 0
Oklahoma	5	1	8 1
Texas	2	6	3 3
Oklahoma State	3	3	6 3
Kansas State	3	3	6 3
TCU	3	2	5 4
Iowa State	2	4	4 5
Texas Tech	2	4	4 5
West Virginia	1	4	3 6
Kansas	1	5	3 6
Big Ten			
East		Overall	
	W	L	W L
Ohio State	5	1	9 0
Penn State	5	1	8 1
Indiana	4	2	7 2
Michigan	4	2	7 2
Michigan State	2	4	4 5
Nebraska	1	5	3 6
Rutgers	0	6	2 7
West			
Minnesota	6	0	9 0
Wisconsin	4	2	7 2
UCLA	3	3	6 4
Iowa	3	3	6 3
Purdue	3	4	4 5
Northwestern	0	7	1 8
Pac-12			
North		Overall	
	W	L	W L
Oregon	5	0	8 1
Oregon State	2	4	5 5
Stanford	3	4	4 5
Washington	3	4	4 4
California	3	4	4 4
Washington State	1	5	4 4
South			
Utah	5	1	8 1
Southern Cal	5	2	6 4
UCLA	2	4	5 5
Arizona State	2	4	4 5
Colorado	2	5	4 6
SEC			
East		Overall	
	W	L	W L
Georgia	5	1	8 1
Florida	5	3	8 2
Tennessee	3	3	5 5
South Carolina	3	4	4 6
Alabama	3	4	4 5
Kentucky	2	5	4 5
Vanderbilt	1	5	2 7
West			
LSU	5	0	9 0
Auburn	4	2	7 2
Texas A&M	3	3	6 3
Mississippi State	2	4	5 5
Mississippi	2	4	4 5
Arkansas	0	6	2 8



VASHA HUNT/AP

An LSU fan hoists a tiger belt to celebrate LSU's 46-41 win over Alabama last week. The top-ranked Tigers play at Ole Miss on Saturday.

KEY POWER FIVE MATCHUPS

No. 5 Georgia (8-1) at No. 13 Auburn (7-2) 9:30 p.m. Saturday CET AFN-Sports2

Series record: Georgia leads 59-56-8.
What's at stake? — Georgia probably must win this game to keep its playoff hopes alive. Auburn's shot at a playoff are dimmer and they need to sweep two tough final opponents in Georgia and Alabama to get in. Tigers coach Gus Malzahn is in the second year of a seven-year, \$49 million contract that carries with it a buyout of still more than \$27 million, but he may be on the hot seat after a 7-5 regular season last year. This is also the oldest rivalry in the South, with this being the 124th meeting between the teams.

Key matchup — Georgia: The Bulldogs' defense has been stellar, holding foes to 10.1 points a game and they will look to rattle Auburn freshman quarterback Bo Nix. Auburn: The Tigers' strong defensive front will look to keep Georgia's running game, led by D'Andre Swift, from getting untracked. He's rushed for 292 yards and two touchdowns in two outings against Auburn.

Players to watch — Georgia: WR George Pickens, a Hoover, Ala., native who flipped his recruitment as a high school senior from Auburn to the Bulldogs. He's Georgia's second-leading receiver with 29 catches for 389 yards.
Auburn: Freshman RB DJ. Williams has rushed for 303 yards and a touchdown in four games. The Tigers will also hope that Boobie Whitlow is at full strength after being held out against Ole Miss.

Facts & figures — The Bulldogs have won three straight and have shut out two of their last three opponents. They've given up a total of 17 points during their three-game winning streak. Georgia has won 14 of its last 18 matchups with Auburn. Although Auburn has the home-field advantage, that generally doesn't mean much in this series. Georgia owns a 16-12-2 record at Auburn, while Auburn has gone 18-15 in Athens (this game also has been played in Atlanta and Columbus, Georgia). Georgia still hasn't allowed a touchdown run.

No. 1 LSU (9-0) at Ole Miss (4-6) 1:00 a.m. Sunday CET AFN-Sports2

Series record: LSU leads 62-40-4.
What's at stake? — LSU is hoping to hold onto its No. 1 ranking, make the SEC championship game the College Football Playoff. Ole Miss is trying to right its season after losing three of its past four games. The Rebels need to win Saturday and beat rival Mississippi State on Thursday just to go bowling.

Key matchup — Ole Miss's defense against QB Joe Burrow and LSU's offense. The Rebels have been respectable, holding opponents to 26.2 points a game, but LSU is putting up 46.79 points a game. Burrow had a huge game last year against the Rebels, passing for 292 yards and three touchdowns and rushing for 96 yards and another TD in a 45-16 win.

Players to watch — LSU: Burrow has established himself as the clear Heisman Trophy favorite, but running back Clyde Edwards-Helaire also has played a vital role in keeping the Tigers unbeaten. Edwards-Helaire rushed for 103 yards and three touchdowns against Alabama last week. In three of LSU's last four games, Edwards-Helaire has run for over 100 yards against a Top 25 opponent. He ran for 134 yards and two touchdowns in a 42-28 victory over Florida. He rushed for 136 yards and one touchdown in a 23-20 triumph over Auburn.

Ole Miss: Last week, in a 41-3 defeat of New Mexico State, freshman QB Rhys Plumlee accounted for 301 yards of total offense, including two touchdowns and 177 yards on the ground, just one yard shy of the Rebels rushing record by a quarterback. His 75-yard run in the first half was the third-longest rush by a QB in Rebels history.

Facts & figures — LSU coach Ed Orgeron was the Rebels' head coach from 2005-07, but was fired after winning three SEC games in as many seasons. Ole Miss hasn't had a passing touchdown in its last three games. The Rebels have thrown for 200-plus yards in just one of their last six games. The Rebels ran for 447 yards against New Mexico State.

Wake Forest (7-2) at No. 3 Clemson (10-0) 9:30 p.m. Saturday CET AFN-Sports

Series record — Clemson leads 66-17.
What's at stake? — The Tigers, after struggling at times earlier this season, seem to be hitting their stride. They are in the driver's seat for a fifth consecutive Atlantic Coast Conference championship and another trip to the College Football Playoff. The Demon Deacons' only shot at the Orange Bowl is for Clemson to make the playoff, leaving the Demon Deacons as league's second-highest-ranked team. Wake Forest was eliminated from the division race with its 36-17 loss last week at Virginia Tech.

Key matchup — Clemson's defensive line against Wake Forest QB Jamie Newman. The Demon Deacons are second in scoring in the ACC to the Tigers, but Newman won't have top receiver Sage Surratt to go to. The 66-catch, 1,001-yard, 11 touchdown star is done for the year with a shoulder injury. Clemson has allowed only one passing touchdown this season and the defensive line's pressure has been a big reason for that. Wake Forest's defense needs to do a better job than it has on the ground. It is allowing 243.8 rushing yards a game.

Players to watch — Clemson: RB Travis Etienne has rushed for 1,214 yards and 13 touchdowns while sophomore QB Travis Lawrence is looking like he did at the end of last season. He has thrown for 2,303 yards and 23 touchdowns, but has eight interceptions.

Wake Forest: CB Amari Henderson. The senior is the nation's active leader with 47 pass breakups. WR Kendall Hinton (51 receptions for 659 yards and one TD) will need to step up in Surratt's absence. Wake Forest running back Cade Carrion has rushed for 285 yards and three touchdowns.

Facts & figures — Clemson defeated Wake Forest 63-3 last year and has won 10 games in a row in the series. Wake Forest's senior class had had four winning seasons, the first time that's happened in 71 years.

— Associated Press

NFL

Scoreboard

American Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	8	1	0	.889	270	98
Buffalo	6	3	0	.667	174	150
Miami	2	7	0	.222	119	268
N.Y. Jets	2	7	0	.222	130	238
South						
Houston	6	3	0	.667	238	191
Indianapolis	5	4	0	.556	194	193
Tennessee	5	5	0	.500	203	197
Jacksonville	4	5	0	.444	176	189
North						
Baltimore	7	2	0	.778	300	189
Pittsburgh	5	5	0	.500	200	202
Cleveland	4	6	0	.400	192	228
Cincinnati	0	9	0	.000	137	259
West						
Kansas City	6	4	0	.600	284	239
Oakland	5	4	0	.556	208	240
L.A. Chargers	4	6	0	.400	207	194
Denver	3	6	0	.333	149	170

National Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	5	4	0	.556	251	170
Philadelphia	5	4	0	.556	224	213
N.Y. Giants	2	8	0	.200	203	289
Washington	1	8	0	.111	108	219
South						
New Orleans	7	2	0	.778	204	182
Carolina	5	4	0	.556	225	228
Tampa Bay	3	6	0	.333	260	279
Atlanta	2	8	0	.222	191	259
North						
Green Bay	8	2	0	.800	250	205
Seattle	7	0	1	.875	262	182
Chicago	4	5	0	.444	162	157
Detroit	3	1	1	.389	217	237
West						
San Francisco	8	1	0	.889	259	129
Seattle	8	2	0	.800	275	254
L.A. Rams	5	4	0	.556	226	191
Arizona	3	5	0	.375	222	281

Thursday's game

Cleveland 21, Pittsburgh 7

Sunday's games

Dallas at Detroit
N.Y. Jets at Washington
New Orleans at Tampa Bay
Denver at Minnesota
Houston at Baltimore
Buffalo at Miami
Jacksonville at Indianapolis
Atlanta at Carolina
Arizona at San Francisco
New England at Philadelphia
Cincinnati at Oakland
Chicago at L.A. Rams
Open: N.Y. Giants, Seattle, Tennessee, Green Bay

Monday's games

Kansas City vs. L.A. Chargers at Mexico City

Thursday, Nov. 21

Sunday, Nov. 24

Tampa Bay at Atlanta
Miami at Cleveland
Seattle at Philadelphia
N.Y. Giants at Chicago
Carolina at New Orleans
Denver at Buffalo
Detroit at Washington
Oakland at N.Y. Jets
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati
Jacksonville at Tennessee
Dallas at New England
Green Bay at San Francisco
Open: Arizona, Minnesota, Kansas City, L.A. Chargers
Monday, Nov. 25
Baltimore at L.A. Rams

Thursday

Browns 21, Steelers 7

Pittsburgh 0 0 0 7-0
Cleveland 7 7 0 7-21

First quarter

Cle—Mayfield 1 run (Seibert kick), 11:07.

Second quarter

Cle—Landry 1 pass from Mayfield (Seibert kick), 5:25.

Third quarter

Pit—Samuels 2 passes from Rudolph (Boswell kick), 5:39.

Fourth quarter

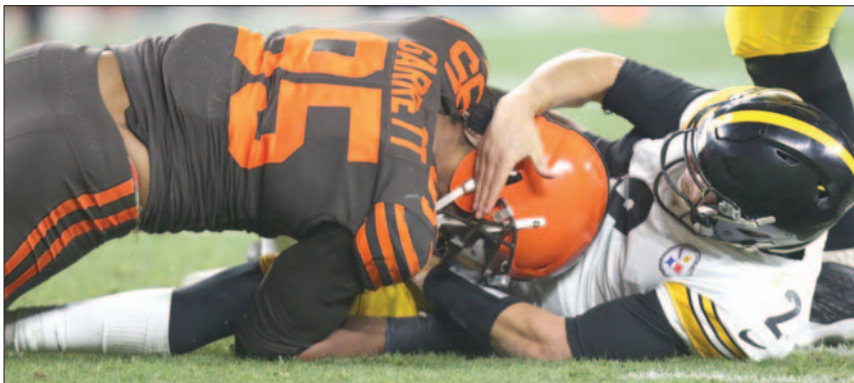
Cle—Carlson 5 pass from Mayfield (Seibert kick), 5:25.

A—67:43.

	Pit	Cle
First downs	18	17
Total Net Yards	236	293
Rushes-yards	16-58	35-104
Passing	178	189
Punt Returns	2-18	3-16
Kickoff Returns	2-32	4-50
Interceptions Ret.	0	4-90
Comp.-Att.-Int.	23-44-4	17-32-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	4-43	1-4
Punts	5-49-6	8-45-8
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	6-41	8-121
Time of Possession	29:04	33:56

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Pittsburgh: Samuels 5-26, Rudolph 2-15, Tr. Edmunds 1-11, Connor 5-10, Brooks-James 1-(minus 4). **Cleveland:** Chubb 17-54, Hunt 6-12, Mayfield 1-1, Gilbert 1-(minus 1).
PASSING—Pittsburgh: Rudolph 23-44-4, 4-21. **Cleveland:** Mayfield 17-32-0-193.
RECEIVING—Pittsburgh: Samuels 5-19, Washington 3-49, McDonald 3-23, Tr. Edmunds 3-27, Jones 2-24, Smith 1-18, D. Williams 1-18, D. Williams 1-18, Vannett 1-7, Connor 1-6, Cleveland 1-1, Hodge 1-1, Carlson 1-8, Teller 1-6 (minus 5).
MISSED FIELD GOALS—Pittsburgh: Boswell 44. **Cleveland:** Seibert 45, Seibert 50.



JOHN KUNTZ, CLEVELAND.COM/TNS

Steelers quarterback Mason Rudolph pulls on the helmet of Browns defensive end Myles Garrett, an incident that provoked their conflict late in the fourth quarter of Thursday's game in Cleveland. The Browns won 21-7.

Garrett: Browns' victory overshadowed by assault

FROM BACK PAGE

Players from both sidelines spilled on the field during the melee, which began after Garrett wrestled Rudolph to the ground well after he completed a short pass on a meaningless play. Garrett, Pouncey and Browns defensive tackle Larry Ogunjobi were ejected.

Rudolph got his hand on Garrett's helmet first as the players grappled on the ground, but Garrett escalated the brawl after he got back on his feet. He yanked the helmet off Rudolph and slammed it into the top of the quarterback's head.

Rudolph threw his arms in the air in disbelief after the impact, and Pouncey retaliated by punching and kicking Garrett.

"I thought it was pretty cowardly and bush league," Rudolph said. "I'm not going to back down from any bully. I felt like I had a bone to pick with him. I appreciate the line always having my back, but I was angry."

Browns quarterback Baker Mayfield called Garrett's actions "inexcusable" and Fox commentator Troy Aikman said they were "barbaric."

Mayfield said he didn't speak with Garrett, but he expects his teammate to be accountable.

"This is a physical, violent game and there's moments if you don't keep your cool, bad things can happen and he knows that. It's inexcusable and he knows that," Mayfield said. "There's no other way around it, he's going to own up to it and he's going to handle it and this locker room is going to have to come together because this is going to be a soap opera on the outside much like the media has portrayed us to be for the whole season."

The incident overshadowed a win that put Cleveland back in the playoff picture and breathed some life into a season that had been slipping away.

"It feels like we lost," Mayfield said.

Rudolph, a second-year player who took over for the injured Ben Roethlisberger in Week 2, has already missed time this season with a concussion after he was knocked unconscious from a helmet-to-helmet hit by Baltimore Ravens safety Earl Thomas.

Steelers coach Mike Tomlin refused to discuss the disturbing end-game situation.

Several Pittsburgh players were eager to give their views on what happened.

"I don't know how he got to the point that it's OK to use a helmet as a weapon," said Steelers defensive tackle Cameron Heyward. "I know we play a sport that's violent, but it



PHOTOS BY DAVID RICHARD/AP. ABOVE, AND JOHN KUNTZ, CLEVELAND.COM/TNS, LEFT

Above: Browns quarterback Baker Mayfield celebrates his 8-yard touchdown pass to tight end Stephen Carlson on Thursday. Left: Cleveland's Myles Garrett hits Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Mason Rudolph over the head with Rudolph's helmet.

two touchdown passes and scored on a 1-yard plunge as Cleveland held on to defeat the banged-up Steelers for just the fourth time in 10 years and improved to 2-0 in the AFC North for the first time.

Kaepernick workout: The Browns are one of 11 teams committed to attending former quarterback Colin Kaepernick's workout in Atlanta this weekend.

Owner Dee Haslam said he didn't know who from the team would be evaluating Kaepernick, who hasn't played since 2016 and became a polarizing figure when he knelt during the national anthem to protest social and racial injustice.

"We are in support of anybody getting an opportunity to play football," Haslam said.

Watt's up: Steelers LB T.J. Watt took down Mayfield in the third quarter, giving him eight sacks in five career contests against the Browns. Watt has at least one-half sack in seven straight games, the longest active streak in the NFL.

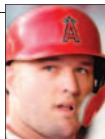


should never have gotten handled like that. That dumb stuff shouldn't be allowed.

"For someone to use a helmet as a weapon is uncalled for. I know you've got to ask me the question, but he's got to answer for that."

Before the ugly ending, Mayfield threw

SPORTS



SoCal sweep
Angels' Trout, Dodgers' Bellinger
win MVP honors » **MLB, Page 29**



NFL

'Barbaric'



The Browns'
Myles Garrett,
right, swings a
helmet at Steelers
QB Mason Rudolph
late in the fourth
quarter of Thursday's
game in Cleveland.
David Richard / AP

Browns' Garrett out indefinitely after hitting Steelers QB with helmet

By TOM WITHERS
Associated Press

CLEVELAND

The Browns were just seconds away from a season-changing win when Myles Garrett lost his composure in a moment of rage rarely seen on an NFL field.

Garrett tore off Pittsburgh quarterback Mason Rudolph's helmet, wildly swung it and hit the QB in the head, a shocking act that resulted in a lengthy suspension for Cleveland's star defensive end and perhaps cost the Browns any chance of making the playoffs.

Garrett's outburst came with 8 seconds left in Cleveland's 21-7 win over the rival Steelers on Thursday night, a game that will not be remembered for anything that happened in the first 59 minutes.

Garrett was suspended for at least the rest of the regular season and postseason on Friday, while Steelers center Maurkice Pouncey was suspended three games for punching and kicking Garrett. Browns defensive tackle Larry Ogunjobi was also suspended for one game.

"I lost my cool and I regret it," Garrett said after the



JOHN KUNTZ, CLEVELAND.COM/TNS

Steelers center Maurkice Pouncey takes a swing at Garrett following Garrett's attack on Rudolph.

'I don't know how he got to the point that it's OK to use a helmet as a weapon. I know we play a sport that's violent, but it should never have gotten handled like that.'

Cameron Heyward

Pittsburgh Steelers defensive tackle

game. "It's going to come back to hurt our team. The guys who jumped into the scrum, I appreciate my team having my back, but it never should have gotten to that point.

"It's on me."

The league said Garrett will have to meet with Commissioner Roger Goodell before his reinstatement is considered.

The Steelers and Browns were also each fined \$250,000.

SEE GARRETT ON PAGE 31