For Staff Sgt. Sherri Vlastuin, Instagram popularity came quickly — and at a price.

Vlastuin, 26, has used the social media network since 2013 to document her life as an Army combat medic at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri, her home state. One post — a selfie after her graduation from Air Assault School two years ago — suddenly elevated her page. She has amassed 36,500 followers and is known as an “influencer,” someone who’s established credibility and a high level of engagement online.

She posts about her hikes in Arkansas and Utah, her goldendoodle, workouts and duck-hunting trips, and she’s often wearing American flag apparel, Trump regalia or her Army uniform.

Many of those photos have been used by scammers to create imitation profiles to lure unsuspecting people into “romance scams” — a problem on social media platforms, particularly for American servicemembers.

SEE SCAMS ON PAGE 6
Navy says it’s tracking UFOs

BY ANDREW DYER
The San Diego Union-Tribune

SAN DIEGO — Strange flying objects captured on video by Navy fighter pilots off the coast of San Diego in 2004 and in Atlantic waters in 2015 were acknowledged by the Navy as “unidentified aerial phenomena” last week, the first time the service has acknowledged the objects are real.

The three videos, published by former Blink-182 guitarist Tom DeLonge’s “To the Stars Academy,” appear to show small, airborne craft flying and maneuvering at high speeds. The videos were shot by the Air Force Targeting Forward Looking Infrared pods on Navy F/A-18s.

The news was first reported by The Black Vault, a website that publishes declassified government documents. A Navy spokesman told The Black Vault that the Navy had no “descriptions, hypothesis of conclusions” about objects in the three videos. The videos are labeled on YouTube as “FLIR1,” “Gimbali” and “Go Fast.”

The Navy also told The Black Vault the dates on which each video was shot. FLIR1 was shot by an F/A-18 Super Hornet assigned to the aircraft carrier Nimitz off the coast of San Diego on Nov. 14, 2004. The other two videos were shot on Jan. 15, 2015. On the “Gimbali” video, one pilot says on the radio “Look at that thing, dude.”

Politico reported in April that the Navy was drafting new guidelines for pilots and other naval personnel to report such encounters and to de-stigmatize them.

The acknowledgment comes amid heightened public interest in UFOs. A viral Facebook event, “Storm Area 51, They Can’t Stop All Of Us,” is scheduled for Friday at the remote Nevada Air Force base.

The event proposes that masses of people “Naruto run” toward the gates of the base in order to expose any alien-technology that conspiracy theorists have long suspected exists on the base.

“Naruto running” refers to the animation in a popular Japanese animated series of the same name, in which characters are depicted running with their arms pinned back. “Let’s see them aliens,” the event description says.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Dave Goldfein told a reporter Tuesday at the Air Force Association’s Air, Space & Cyber Conference that the Air Force was taking the “Storm Area 51” event “very seriously.”

“Our nation has secrets,” he said. Extra security and barricades have reportedly been added to the base as well.

Suicide bomb targets government office in east Afghanistan

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Militants in Afghanistan attempted to storm a government office in an eastern provincial capital Monday, with a suicide bombing sparking a running gun battle with security forces, Afghan officials said.

The attack in Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar province, comes a day after the Taliban launched two separate suicide attacks — one targeting President Ashraf Ghani’s election rally in a northern province and another in the heart of the Afghan capital. Those attacks killed at least 48 people and wounding scores more, in the deadliest single day since a peace agreement with Taliban insurgents was declared dead.

Fighting was still ongoing as of Wednesday evening, said Attaullah Khogyani, spokesman for Nangarhar’s governor. No one immediately claimed responsibility for Wednesday’s attack, but both the Taliban and Islamic State are active in eastern Afghanistan.

The violence comes as Afghanistan prepares for presidential elections on Sept. 28, a vote the Taliban vehemently oppose. The insurgent group has warned Afghans not to vote in the election and said their fighters would target election campaigns as well as polling stations.

Khogyani said Afghan security forces had rescued dozens more civilians, including women and children, were still trapped inside the building, said a provincial official who spoke anonymously because they were not authorized to talk to reporters.

Two attackers had been killed by forces, according to Nasrat Rahimi, spokesman for the interior ministry.

Afghan security forces arrive near the site of a suicide bombing and gun battle as militants attempted to storm a government office in Jalalabad on Wednesday.

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American Roundup .............. 17
Business.......................... 21
Classified ........................ 19, 23
Comics............................ 22
Crossword.......................... 22
Faces ................................ 18
Opinion ............................ 20
Sports ............................. 24-32
Weather ........................... 21
said. “An emergency involving a baby doesn’t hap-

which are on average about 44 years old. The Navy’s plans for extending the service life of the ships, such as procuring used vessels and devising a new construction strategy, hasn’t yet delivered.

The steel is rotting,” said retired Rear Adm. Mark Busby, administrator of the Maritime Administration, in testimony during a congressional hearing on the issue earlier this year.

TRANSCOM chief Gen. Stephen Lyons has said improving sealift capability is a top priority for his command.

Since the end of the Cold War, the military has ordered dozens of ships to sea in a conflict — are up to the job.

The rescue workers had rushed to Baumholder on Saturday afternoon in late August after getting a call about an unconscious baby at the base, Therre-Ost said.

“Calls to an emergency at the base in Baumholder are not unusual, but this was different,” Therre-Ost said. “An emergency involving a baby doesn’t hap-

New command tasked with getting troops to hotspots

A Navy seaman directs cargo off the USNS Bob Hope as part of a turbo activation in 2017 at the Port of San Diego, Calif. U.S. Transportation Command began a similar turbo activation Monday to test the ability to get forces across oceans in the event of a fight with Russia or China.

Oana Lungescu said.

The command, the formation of which NATO approved last year, is one of two new headquarters focused on ensuring military hardware and forces can quickly cross national borders in the event of a crisis. The other command, based in Norfolk, Va., will help ensure maritime lines of communication between North America and Europe remain open.

“The new command in Ulm will help our forces become more mobile and enable rapid reinforcement within the alliance, ensuring we have the right forces in the right place at the right time,” Lungescu said Tuesday.

The command will have 160 personnel and is expected to be fully staffed by 2021. During a crisis, it will be able to draw on as many as 600 personnel, NATO said. The office falls under the responsibilities of NATO’s Supreme Allied Commander Europe, Gen. Tod Wolters.

Over the past five years NATO has focused reinforcing its eastern flank with more exercises and basing troops in the Baltics and Poland because of concerns about a more aggressive Russia. But the ability to move large numbers of troops on short notice has been a long-standing problem.

Setting up new commands to manage the flow of forces in a crisis is one of the ways the alliance has tried to adapt. NATO and the European Union also have discussed the need to streamline diplomatic clearances for troop movements as well as ensure that infrastructure on the continent — such as tunnels and bridges — are strong enough to handle tanks and other heavy military vehicles.

Army presents awards to German paramedics who saved baby’s life

The baby is the child of a U.S. soldier assigned to Baumholder and his wife.

When the paramedics arrived, they realized “this was a real emergency” and called a helicopter ambulance to come to the base, Therre-Ost said.

The two paramedics were able to revive the baby before the child was airlifted to a hospital in Trier, she said.

Earlier this month, Edwards recognized Kemisha Miller, a caregiver at the Wetzel Child Development Center on Baumholder, for saving the life of another child.

Miller was credited for performing emergency lifesaving procedures on a 1-year-old in the center’s care who was choking on a peach.

Massive sealift readiness exercise launched

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Edwards presented Miller with an “On the Spot” cash award of $500 and a coin.

From left, Daniela Therre-Ost and Andre Jank, paramedics with the German Red Cross Emergency Medical Services, were presented with Certificates of Appreciation by Col. Jason Edwards, U.S. Army Garrison Rheinland-Pfalz commander, in Baumholder on Sept. 9.
BY MATTHEW M. BURKE AND AYA ICHIHASHI
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — A U.S. Marine Corps truck delivering a boat to a local port for routine training Tuesday was met by about 100 Okinawan demonstrators and turned away after a nine-hour protest, according to a local newspaper report.

The incident started at approximately 7 a.m. when a Marine truck towing a 32-foot boat arrived at Motobu Port from Camp Schwab, the Marine base in Henoko, The Okinawa Times reported.

The truck and boat were met by peaceful protesters who blocked their entry by sitting in front of the gate. Others gathered across the street, according to a video of the scene posted on YouTube.

The video shows what appears to be a contingent of Japanese police in a temporary line between the boat and the protesters. Motobu police were unavailable for comment Wednesday. No arrests were reported.

The truck and boat remained at the gate until approximately 4:40 p.m., when they departed, The Okinawa Times said.

Port officials said the status of forces agreement between the U.S. and Japan allows the U.S. military to use Japanese ports. The Marines on Sept. 10 notified port officials they planned to launch the boat at Motobu, a port spokesman said. The boat was to be used in parachute training at nearby Ie Island, according to the Japan Ministry of Defense.

“Under the SOFA agreement, the Marines informed us on Tuesday, Sept. 10, of their intention to use our port,” the port spokesman said. “The prefectural government notified the press on Friday. The press released the news in Saturday’s paper.”

Okinawa prefectural officials said Wednesday they asked the Marines not to use the port, but when their request went unheeded, they released the information to local media.

It is customary in Japan for some government officials to speak on condition of anonymity. The prefectural officials said while they honor the SOFA, launching the boat at Motobu would cause locals and interfere with commercial ships.

Japanese Defense Minister Taro Kono, who was appointed Sept. 11, said at a press conference Tuesday a misunderstanding contributed to the protest.

He said the U.S. military was moving its parachute training back to Ie Island as a result of complaints from an Okinawa citizen and the prefectural government about parachute training on Okinawa Air Base. Motobu Port, on the northeastern coast of Okinawa’s main island, is about five miles from Ie Island. The U.S. military had originally conducted parachute training at Ie but moved it to Kadena in response to environmental factors, Kono told reporters.

However, the move to Kadena angered locals, Kono said, so he demanded it be returned to Ie.

“Due to bad weather and high waves, it’s hard to conduct the training at Ie Island,” Kono said.

“With that boat, they can practice much less on Kadena and do so in Ie Island.”

Marine officials did not respond to requests seeking comment Wednesday. The Okinawa Times reported the Marines used Motobu Port because it’s about 15 miles from Camp Schwab, while the alternative, Kadena Marina, is more than 30 miles away.

“If we don’t use Motobu port, we have to use Kadena Marina, which is further from Camp Schwab, and we have to use the local roads to transport the boat to either port,” the newspaper quoted an unidentified Marine official as saying. “We thought about the stress and burden to the locals and used the Motobu Port instead.”

The prefectural spokesman said information about the boat launch was released Friday in the interest of transparency, not to rally protesters to the site.

“We made a request to [the Okinawa Defense Bureau] and the Marines [on Sept. 11] not to use the Motobu Port,” a prefectural spokesman told Stars and Stripes on Wednesday. “We have told the Marines and ODB not use the port unless it’s an emergency. We made another request not to use the port yesterday.”

Protesters blocked a Marine Corps truck hauling a boat Tuesday from entering Motobu Port on Okinawa, Japan.

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Tickets are Non-Refundable
USFK under pressure to speed base returns

BY KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The U.S. military wants to set the record straight as it faces South Korean pressure to expedite the handover of bases as part of a drawn-out relocation plan.

U.S. Forces Korea is ready to turn over more than half of the bases now, including parts of Yongsan Garrison in Seoul, the command said Wednesday in a rare public display of frustration.

South Korea “recently announced that it desired to expedite the return process of 26 U.S. military installations,” USFK said. “Fifteen of the 26 U.S. military installations, including four sites specifically requested for transfer at the earliest possible date...have been vacated, closed and available for transfer to the (South Korean) government.”

“Two parcels of Yongsan Garrison have been vacated, closed and available for transfer since summer 2019 for a total of five parcels available now,” it added.

The statement came amid concerns of a widening rift in the long-standing U.S.-South Korean alliance after Seoul ended a U.S.-based military intelligence sharing pact with Japan.

The allies also are gearing up for defense cost-sharing negotiations that are likely to be contentious since President Donald Trump has demanded that the South sharply increase its contribution.

“Fifteen of the 26 U.S. military installations, including four sites specifically requested for transfer at the earliest possible date...have been vacated, closed and available for transfer to the (South Korean) government.”

The tree-lined base is expected to eventually be transformed into a park similar to New York City’s Central Park.

The population on the Army garrison has dropped from a peak of more than 25,000 to just over 5,000 after the relocation to Humphreys. The last major unit will move after the new hospital on Humphreys opens in mid-November, allowing the medical facility on Yongsan to close.

Seoul and Washington also have agreed to move the Combined Forces Command to Humphreys instead of keeping it in Seoul. Garrison officials recently outlined plans for closing most facilities by the end of the year and ending on-post family housing by May 2020 but said the transition process is expected to take a few more years.

“By the time we vacate and close areas, we will be barricading those areas. There’s no change to the perimeter, the actual footprint,” in the meantime, garrison commander Col. Monica Washington said during an Aug. 29 town hall-style meeting.

Both sides have insisted they remain committed to the alliance, which stems from the 1950-53 Korean War, despite the differences.

“The perception is that USFK is holding up the process when the reality is we’ve already got 15 of 26 bases...that are ready to be turned over.”

Col. Lee Peters
USFK spokesman

“We’re correcting the record,” USFK spokesman Col. Lee Peters said Wednesday. “The perception is that USFK is holding up the process when the reality is we’ve already got 15 of 26 bases and five parcels of Yongsan that are ready to be turned over to the (South Korean) government.”

That prompted media reports speculating that President Moon Jae-in was seeking to complete the relocation before his six-year term ends in 2022.

“The remaining 11 still house troops who can’t be moved until facilities are ready. “You can’t move somebody to a place that doesn’t exist or is being built,” he said.

Four installations on South Korea’s wish list have been closed for years, including Camp Eagle and Camp Long that have been available since December 2010; the Shea Range parcel located at Camp Hovey since October 2012; and parcels of Camp Market since February 2015, according to USFK.

South Koreans have long been eager to regain control of Yongsan, which was originally on the outskirts of an impoverished Seoul but has become prime real estate since the South Korean capital has grown into one of Asia’s most prosperous cities.

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“Fifteen of the 26 U.S. military installations, including four sites specifically requested for transfer at the earliest possible date...have been vacated, closed and available for transfer to the (South Korean) government.”

The status of forces agreement between the two countries essentially throws the burden of paying for any clean-up on South Korea. Earlier this month, South Korea’s presidential office said it would redouble efforts for the early return of the 26 bases, including Yongsan.

That prompted media reports speculating that President Moon Jae-in was seeking to complete the relocation before his six-year term ends in 2022.

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gamel.kim@stripes.com
Twitter: @kimgamel
**Scams: Medic’s Instagram popularity made her a target for cybercriminals**

**FROM FRONT PAGE**

Some expect her to repay them, others seek the same relationship with her that they believed they had with the imposter. She has mostly given up reporting the accounts, she said. “But I would go through them, and after a few hundred of these screenshots, I was like, ‘What am I doing? This is crazy.’”

**Leveraging America’s trust**

Vietnam Veterans of America, a congressionally chartered veterans organization, will send its report, "An Investigation into Foreign Entities Who are Targeting Servicemembers and Veterans Online," to lawmakers Wednesday. Kristofer Goldsmith, an Iraq War veteran who compiled the study for VVA, planned to share print copies around Capitol Hill.

The overall goal, he said, is to keep servicemembers, veterans and their families safe in cyber environments. The report urges social media networks and federal law enforcement, with support from Congress, to put more focus and resources toward stopping romance scams.

“The way these foreign entities are abusing the veterans’ population and abusing the trust that people have in us — it’s going to weaken [veterans organizations],” veteran at large in the United States, he told Stars and Stripes.

Researchers with Oxford’s Project on Computational Propaganda reported in 2017 that trolls and bots targeted military personnel and veterans with propaganda, conspiracies and hyperpartisan political content during the 2016 presidential election. Veterans and servicemembers are seen as "potentially influential voters and community leaders" because of the trust the public places in them, the study states.

Scammers tend to pose as veterans and servicemembers in romance scams for the same reason, Goldsmith said. “They’re taking advantage of America’s trust in us.”

In addition, military service can be used as an excuse for scammers’ connectivity issues, the timing of their messages and reporting imposter accounts. He sent a letter to Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg in July, calling his attention to cybercriminals posing as servicemembers.

"I say, ‘I'm sorry. I understand you're a victim in all of this, but so am I. ‘

Vlastuin has notified her unit and her Judge Advocate General officer about the problem, but no one has been able to do anything, she said.

The U.S. military is aware of the problem of cybercriminals posing as service members in romance scams. Kim Joiner, a deputy assistant to the secretary of defense, told The New York Times her team works with Facebook to remove imposters.

"The problem is identifying them," Joiner told the Times. "Once we identify them, I'm very satisfied with how Facebook reacts."

Quitting social media and deleting her Instagram page often occurs to Vlastuin, especially because of the effects on her friends and family. Cybercriminals will use photos and stories of her mother, her nieces and her friends. She's stopped including other people in her posts.

Every time she creates a post, Vlastuin wonders whether it has any value other than being used to impersonate her.

She hopes to use her account, and her large number of followers, to inspire young women.

In the message accompanying her post about graduating Air Assault School — the one that skyrocketed her Instagram fame — Vlastuin wrote, "I never thought that I would attempt this school, simply because I didn’t think I was physically capable of getting past even the first day and because I was absolutely terrified of failure. Looking back, I can't help but wonder how many times this fear has held me back from things that I know I could have potentially been great at. Luckily for me, I have people push the capes of my costume and I'm able to walk the stage at Fort Hood Air Assault, which I've barely been invited to."

"I want to be there for young girls who want a role model, and I want to motivate people."

Sherri Vlastuin Army combat medic and Instagram influencer

The New York Times, citing the FBI, reported there were nearly 18,500 complaints last year from victims of romance scams, with losses exceeding $362 million. The FBI told The Times that the bureau investigates only a fraction of those reports because the amounts lost — typically a few thousand dollars — are too low.

Reporting the imposters

When her profile first became popular, Vlastuin would find accounts using her name and photos, take screenshots and report them to Facebook and Instagram. As her online status grew, fighting the imposter accounts quickly became a full-time job.

"It would be a big deal to me," Vlastuin said. "But I would go through them, and after a few hundred of these screenshots, I was like, ‘What am I doing? This is crazy.’"

Even estimating the number of accounts she’s reported would be difficult, Vlastuin said. She guessed it was about 500 accounts between both social media networks. Sometimes it would take weeks or longer than a month, but typically Instagram and Facebook responded by removing the accounts, she said.

Vlastuin has mostly given up reporting them now.

People who have been tricked by the imposter accounts continue to contact Vlastuin daily. About 75% of them figured out they were being scammed before sending money, Vlastuin said.

In one message she received last month, an Instagram user told her, “Your Instagram image is being abused. I am also the one who almost suffered.”

She previously replied to each person who messaged her, apologizing they were tricked. Sometimes, though, they would want the same relationship with her that they had developed with the scammer.

Medium: 189 Words

Person: Sherri Vlastuin

かかる

**Weakening perception**

The issue has received attention from Capitol Hill.

Rep. Adam Kinzinger, R-Ill., an Iraq War veteran and lieutenant colonel in the Air National Guard, is battling his own imposter accounts. He sent a letter to Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg in July, calling his attention to cybercriminals posing as servicemembers.

"I am increasingly concerned by the prevalence of so-called ‘romance scams’ and the potential for serious harm on behalf of our military personnel and veterans. These imposters are able to lure victims with explicit descriptions and use photos and stories of our service members and veterans, but the tool is still in the early stages of testing."

"Imposter accounts affect real people, and we remove these accounts when we discover them," the spokesman said. “We’ve invested heavily in strengthening our technology to keep them off our services and we work with law enforcement to prosecute scammers. That job is not finished, and we are committed to sharing our progress.”

Medium: 255 Words

Person: Facebook spokesman

This post in 2017 by Sherri Vlastuin, an Army combat medic based at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri, skyrocketed her presence on Instagram. Because of her popularity, cybercriminals have used her name and image to pose as an American servicemember and engage in “romance scams.”

Medium: 151 Words

Person: Sherri Vlastuin
MIDEAST

Iranian weapons used in attack, Saudis say

Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — Saudi Arabia alleged Wednesday that Iranian cruise missiles and drones attacked the heart of the kingdom’s oil industry, showing journalists the remains of the weapons while stopping short of directly accusing Iran of launching the assault. Iran denies being involved and has threatened the U.S. it will retaliate “immediately” if Tehran is targeted over the attack, which was claimed by Yemen’s Houthi rebels.

The news conference by Saudi military spokesman Col. Turki al-Malki comes after a summer of heightened tensions between Iran and the U.S. over President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrawing America from Tehran’s 2015 nuclear deal with world powers.

While the U.S. has said Iran was behind the attack on Saudi oil installations this weekend, al-Malki made a point not to directly accuse Iran of firing the weapons or launching them from inside of Iranian territory. The kingdom has sought help from world powers.

“T he a t t a c k  w a s  l a u n c h e d  f r o m  t h e  n o r t h  a n d  w a s  u n q u i s h a b l y  s p o n s o r e d  b y  I r a n . ”

Col. Turki al-Malki
Saudi Arabian military spokesman

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The news conference took place with a backdrop of broken and burnt drones and pieces of one cruise missile allegedly collected from the attacks.

Al-Malki described the drones as “delta wing” models, which looked like large triangles. The cruise missile had a small jet engine attached to it, he said.

Eighteen drones and seven cruise missiles were launched in the assault, al-Malki said, with three missiles failing to make their targets. He said the cruise missiles had a range of 435 miles, meaning they could not have been fired from inside Yemen. He played surveillance video he said showed a drone coming in from the north.

“This is the kind of weapon the Iranian regime and the Iranian IRGC are using against the civilian object and facilities infrastructure,” he said, using an acronym for Iran’s paramilitary Revolutionary Guard.

Iran sent a note to the U.S. via Swiss diplomats in Tehran on Monday, reiterating that Tehran denies being involved in the Saudi attack, IRNA reported. The Swiss have looked after American interests in Tehran for decades.

“If any action takes place against Iran, the action will be faced by Iran’s answer immediately,” IRNA quoted the note as saying. It added that Iran’s response wouldn’t be limited to the source of the threat, suggesting it would inflict damage beyond what it had suffered.

IRNA separately reported Wednesday that Iran’s first delegation for the annual U.N. General Assembly meeting had not left Iran because the U.S. has yet to issue them visas. Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif was to travel to New York on Friday, with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani following Monday, according to the agency. The U.N. meeting had been considered as an opportunity for direct talks between Rouhani and Trump.

As the host of the U.N.’s headquarters, the U.S. is mandated to offer world leaders and diplomats visas to attend meetings there. But as tensions have risen, the U.S. has put increasing restrictions on Iranians like Zarif. Since becoming Iran’s president in 2013, Rouhani has spoken each year at the General Assembly.

The U.S. State Department did not respond to requests for comment Wednesday.

Trump separately tweeted: “I have just instructed the Secretary of the Treasury to substantially increase Sanctions on the country of Iran!” He did not elaborate. National Security Council officials declined to comment.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo arrived Wednesday night in the Red Sea city of Jiddah, where he was to meet with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. Pompeo will later travel to the United Arab Emirates on Thursday to meet with Abu Dhabi’s powerful crown prince, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. Both nations are U.S. allies and have been fighting against the Houthis in Yemen.

Pompeo told reporters en route to Saudi Arabia that “it doesn’t matter” whether the Houthis claim they were behind the attack.

“This was an Iranian attack,” he said.

“It doesn’t change the fingerprints of the ayatollahs as having put at risk the global energy supply,” he said, referring to Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Meanwhile, the state-run Saudi Press Agency carried a statement Wednesday saying the kingdom had joined a U.S.-led naval coalition to secure the Mideast’s waterways. Australia, Bahrain and the United Kingdom already have joined the mission.

Earlier in Tehran, Rouhani told his Cabinet that Saudi Arabia should see the weekend attack as a warning to end its war in Yemen, where it has fought the Houthis since 2015 and sought to restore the internationally recognized government.

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Democrats push ahead with short-term bill to avoid shutdown

By Andrew Taylor
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrats controlling the House are steering clear of controversy in a short-term, government-wide spending measure that's needed to prevent a government shutdown at the end of September.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has agreed to a White House request to replenish funds for bailout payments to farmers absorbing heavy losses as a result of President Donald Trump's trade battles with China. The move is to be released Tuesday, and its release remained held up of the Sept. 30 deadline to avert a shutdown, though its release remained held up.

The Senate ran aground.

Democrats say the televised hearings are to educate the American people on the Mueller report and what they say is egregious behavior by the president. They argue that the blockade from the White House and stonewalling from witnesses like Lewandowski just gives them more fodder for lawsuits they have filed against the administration — and possible articles of impeachment on obstruction.

"You are also proving our point for the American people to see," said Nadler, noting that one of the articles of impeachment drafted against President Richard Nixon involved obstruction. He said Lewandowski's behavior is "completely unacceptable."

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Two other witnesses who were subpoenaed alongside Lewandowski, Dearborn and former White House aide Rick Dearborn, did not show up at all, on orders from the White House. The White House says the former aides are "absolutely immune" from testifying — a principle that Democrats are currently challenging in court.

The committee's impeachment investigations face major hurdles, and it's still unclear whether the panel will ever draft articles of impeachment or hold any impeachment votes.

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Teen activist commands lawmakers to work harder on climate change

**By Matthew Daly**

**Associated Press**

WASHINGTON — Swedish teenager Greta Thunberg offered a blunt message to Congress on Tuesday as she brought her campaign for urgent action on climate change to the Capitol.

“I know you’re trying,” she told Democratic senators at an invitation-only forum, “but just not hard enough. Sorry.”

Massachusetts Sen. Ed Markey thanked the 16-year-old activist for her advice and her activism, which has gained worldwide attention by inspiring a series of protests and school strikes, including one set for Friday.

Thunberg and other young activists bring “moral clarity” to the fight against global warming, Markey said.

“We hear you,” he told her, vowing that lawmakers “will double our efforts to make sure that we inject this issue into the politics of this building and this country because time is running out.”

Markey and other lawmakers hailed Thunberg as a “superpower,” noting that her activism has drawn a passionate following of children essentially challenging their elders to take action.

“Save your praise,” Thunberg replied. “We don’t want it,” she added, especially if officials intend to talk about climate change “without doing anything about it.”

Thunberg was in Washington ahead of a global strike planned for Friday. Activists are calling for immediate action from the world’s governments to halt global warming, reduce fossil fuel consumption and avert environmental catastrophe.

Instead of listening to her and other teenagers, lawmakers should invite scientists to the Capitol to listen to their expertise on ways to slow a rise in global temperatures, Thunberg said.

“This is not about us. This is not about youth activism,” she said. “We don’t want to be heard. We want the science to be heard.”

Despite Thunberg’s request, lawmakers bombarded her and other youth activists with praise, saying they had sparked a global movement that is already being felt in the 2020 presidential campaign and in the halls of Congress, where lawmakers are debating proposals such as the Green New Deal.

Markey is a co-sponsor of the Green New Deal, which would shift the U.S. economy away from fossil fuels such as oil and coal and replace them with renewable sources such as wind and solar power.

“We need your leadership,” he told Thunberg and other activists. “It’s creating a new X-factor” to boost efforts to fight climate change.

Last month, Thunberg crossed the Atlantic Ocean in a solar-powered boat, landing in New York City on Aug. 28. She’s in Washington for several days of rallies and lobbying efforts ahead of Friday’s global climate strike.

Thunberg will testify before the House Foreign Affairs Committee on Wednesday and address the U.N. Climate Action Summit in New York next week.

**McConnell says ‘holding pattern’ on guns remains**

**Associated Press**

WASHINGTON — Six weeks after a pair of mass shootings killed more than 30 people, Congress remains “in a holding pattern” on gun control as lawmakers await proposals from the White House, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said.

While President Donald Trump has said he would veto a House-passed bill planned to background checks for gun purchases, McConnell said Tuesday he is hopeful there are other gun-related proposals that Congress can approve and Trump can support.

“I still await guidance from the White House as to what (Trump) thinks he’s comfortable signing,” the Kentucky Republican told reporters. “If and when that happens, then we’ll have a real possibility of actually changing the law and hopefully making some progress.”

Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer said McConnell and Trump were blocking meaningful action on gun violence, adding, “This is the moment for the president to do something different and courageous.”

The New York Democrat said he wonders whether Trump will “rise to the occasion, or will he squander this opportunity as he always has done in the past?”

Schumer and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi warned Trump on Sunday that any proposal must include the House-passed bill to expand background checks. Pelosi and Schumer spoke with Trump by phone and said they made it clear any proposal that does not include it “will not get the job done” because dangerous loopholes will be left open.

Schumer said Tuesday he was “not encouraged by what the president said” but remained committed to pushing for stricter gun control measures. Senate Democrats planned to speak for hours on the Senate floor to urge passage of background checks and other measures in the wake of mass shootings in Texas and Ohio last month that left dozens of people dead.

Trump and White House aides have discussed a number of gun control measures with members of Congress, including steps to go after fraudulent buyers, notify state and local law enforcement of potential buyer fails a background check, issue state-level emergency risk protection orders, boost mental health assistance and speed up executions for those found guilty of committing mass shootings.

Trump hopes to reveal something on gun control to the American public “very soon,” White House spokesman Hogan Gidley said Tuesday. The White House expects the gun proposal later this week or early next week, according to a person familiar with the administration’s thinking.

Attorney General William Barr and White House legislative affairs director Eric Ueland met with GOP senators Tuesday to talk about a path forward. Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said background checks remained under discussion, but it was not clear if progress was being made.

Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, said “serious” gun control did not come up during a lunch meeting Tuesday between Senate Republicans and Vice President Mike Pence.

Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., cautioned against overinterpreting the White House’s relative silence. “My guess is they’re still vetting ideas, proposals and kind of putting together their plan,” he said.

Sen. Joe Manchin, a West Virginia Democrat who has helped lead a bipartisan push to expand background checks, said he had not spoken to Trump since late last week. Manchin said he considers a proposal he is offering with Pennsylvania Republican Sen. Pat Toomey a starting point.

“You can’t water it down because that’s the bedrock,” Manchin said, adding that senators and the White House haven’t agreed on anything yet. “We’re just going to see where it goes,” he said.
**NC elections boost GOP by two in House**

*By Brian Slodysko and Kevin Freking*  
*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — Two Republicans who triumphed in North Carolina special elections — including one whose narrow win displayed anew that suburban voters are deserting the GOP while rural residents are embracing the party — became members of the House on Tuesday. The swearing-in of Dan Bishop and Greg Murphy brought the House to full strength, if only briefly because a Wisconsin lawmaker will relinquish his office next week. But it still left Republicans needing to gain 19 seats in the 2020 elections to recapture House control, a surge that will be difficult.

Bishop, a conservative state senator, wrote the 2016 North Carolina law that restricted which public bathrooms transgender people may use. It was later repealed under criticism. He defeated Democrat Dan McCready by 2 percentage points last week. That was significantly less than Donald Trump’s 11-point win in the district in the 2016 presidential election, a warning sign for Republicans hoping to reelect Trump and make gains in Congress next year.

California was an incubator for the modern conservative movement that swept the state’s former governor, Ronald Reagan, into the White House in 1980. But demographic changes and an influx of new residents have helped drastically rework the political contours of the country’s most populated state, with the former GOP stronghold of Orange County now home to more registered Democrats than Republicans.

“We are going to take the fight to the left, to liberal politicians who say: ‘I don’t care what the liberal politicians are saying and I want to show my support for him publicly,’ ” said Dhillon, an ardent Trump supporter who said she lined up four tables of donors for the Silicon Valley event.

She said the president’s stopover delivered a jolt of energy for California Republicans.

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**Trump criticized for mileage move**

*By Michael Biesecker*  
*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration is poised to revoke California’s authority to set auto mileage standards, asserting that only the federal government has the power to regulate greenhouse gas emissions and fuel economy.

Conservative and free-market groups have been asked to attend a formal announcement of the rollback set for Wednesday afternoon at Environmental Protection Agency headquarters in Washington. Gloria Bergquist, spokeswoman for the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, said Tuesday that her group was among those invited to the event featuring EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler and Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao.

The move comes after the Justice Department recently opened an antitrust investigation into a deal between California and four automakers to relax pollution and related mileage requirements than those sought by President Donald Trump. Trump also has sought to relax Obama-era federal mileage standards nationwide, weakening a key effort by his Democratic predecessor to slow climate change.

Top California officials and environmental groups pledged legal action to stop the rollback.

The White House declined to comment Tuesday, referring questions to EPA. EPA’s press office did not respond to a phone message and email seeking comment.

**By showing up to a fundraiser deep in the belly of the beast, one is saying: ‘I don’t care what the liberal politicians are saying and I want to show my support for him publicly.’**

*Harmeet Dhillon*  
*Republican National Committee Member from San Francisco*

Donald Trump supporter who said she lined up four tables of donors for the Silicon Valley event.

She said the president’s stopover delivered a jolt of energy for California Republicans.
NY panel OKs ban on sale of flavored e-cigs

Whistleblower: Facebook continues to auto-generate extremists’ pages

New parent charged in college admission scam

NY panel OKs ban on sale of flavored e-cigs

By Deepti Hajela and David Klepper

NEW YORK — New York became the first state to ban the sale of flavored e-cigarettes Tuesday, a move that comes as federal health officials investigate a mysterious surge of severe breathing illnesses linked to vaping.

The vote by the state Public Health and Health Planning Council means the prohibition, which covers flavored e-cigarettes and other vaping products except for menthol and tobacco flavors, goes into effect immediately. Vape shops have 90 days to remove merchandise from store shelves.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat, had proposed the emergency ban Sunday, citing surging use among young people.

According to data from the state health department, nearly 40% of high school seniors and 27% of high school students overall in the state use e-cigarettes. Use among high school students went from 10.5% in 2014 to 27.4% in 2018.

Cuomo pointed to vaping flavors such as bubblegum and cotton candy that he said seemed aimed at young people.

“We don’t really know the health consequences of these devices,” he said on public radio Monday.

Vape shop owners say they’re considering a legal challenge to the new regulation, which they say should have gone before lawmakers for hearings, debate and a vote.

Several spoke at the meeting to urge council members to reject the ban.

Mike Kruger owns two vape shops in the Albany region and said the ban could force hundreds of businesses like his to close.

He said smokers looking to quit will have fewer options under the ban, potentially leading to an increase in the use of traditional tobacco products. As for the breathing illnesses, Kruger said he believes they are the result of people buying black market vape liquid, not the items he sells.

“We are bypassing the legislative process,” he said of the ban. Kruger added that many adults seek out the flavored versions.

“Vaping has been around for 12 years. And now this.”

The exemption for menthol was criticized by some health groups, who worried it included menthol, but not tobacco flavor, but rules for enactment have not yet been put into place. Other states are also considering bans.

A Facebook page title “I love islamic state” was active Tuesday. A complaint shows that Facebook has inadvertently produced pages for extremist groups.

It also expanded its definition of terrorism to include not just acts of violence attended to achieve a political or ideological aim, but also attempts at violence, especially when aimed at civilians with the intent to coerce and intimidate. It’s unclear, though, how well enforcement works if the company is still having trouble ridding its platform of well-known extremist organizations.

But as the report shows, plenty of material gets through the cracks — and gets auto-generated.

Whistleblower: Facebook continues to auto-generate extremists’ pages

By Desmond Butler and Barbara Ortutay

WASHINGTON — In the face of criticism that Facebook is not doing enough to combat extremist messaging, the company likes to say that its automated systems remove the vast majority of prohibited content glorifying Islamic State and al-Qaida before they reach the public.

But a whistleblower’s complaint shows that Facebook itself has inadvertently provided the two extremist groups with a networking and recruitment tool by producing dozens of pages in their names.

The social networking company appears to have made little progress on the issue in the four months since The Associated Press detailed how pages that businesses are aiding Middle East extremists.

It’s unclear, though, how well enforcement works if the company has systems in place. Other states are also considering bans.

New parent charged in college admission scam

By Associated Press

BOSTON — A woman accused of paying $400,000 to get her son into the University of California, Los Angeles, as a fake soccer recruit has become the 52nd person charged in a sweeping college admissions bribery scheme, according to an indictment unsealed Tuesday.

Xueting Sui, 48, of Surrey, British Columbia, was charged with a single count of conspiracy and fraud in the indictment unsealed in Boston’s federal court. Authorities say she was arrested in Spain on Monday and was being held there while authorities seek to extradite her to the United States.

Sui is the first person to be charged since June, when parent Jeffrey Bizzack pleaded guilty to paying $250,000 to get his son into the University of Southern California as a fake athlete. Dozens of others were charged in March when authorities announced the investigation.

Prosecutors say Sui paid $400,000 to get her son admitted to UCLA as a top player on two private soccer clubs in Canada, prosecutors said.

Both Singer and Janke have pleaded guilty.

Sui’s son was admitted to UCLA as a soccer player in November 2018, authorities say, and was awarded a 25% scholarship.

The case was outlined in a March indictment against former UCLA soccer coach Jorge Salcedo, but authorities say it was not specific about how or why the student received the scholarship.

Salcedo has pleaded not guilty.

A statement from UCLA says it took “immediate corrective action” after the March indictment was released. The school said privacy laws prevent it from discussing specific cases, but officials are “not aware of any currently enrolled student-athletes who are under suspicion” by the Justice Department.

The alleged bribe ranks among the highest in the scheme. Some other parents are accused of making payments of up to $500,000, and some pursued the scheme multiple times, prosecutors say, with payments totaling up to $1.2 million.

Prosecutors did not explain why Sui was not part of the original group of parents charged. Court documents show Sui’s indictment was filed in March but remained under seal until Tuesday.
Storm likely to dump on Houston

By JUAN A. LOZANO
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Imelda is threatening to dump up to 18 inches of rain in parts of Southeast Texas and southwestern Louisiana as the tropical depression moves inland over the next few days, according to meteorologists.

Ken Graham, director of the National Hurricane Center, said early Wednesday that Imelda had weakened to a tropical depression and was located about 25 miles north-northwest of Houston.

Imelda is the first named storm to impact the Houston area since Hurricane Harvey, according to the National Weather Service. Harvey dumped nearly 50 inches of rain on parts of the flood-prone city in August 2017, flooding more than 150,000 homes in the Houston area and causing an estimated $125 billion in damage in Texas.

While there could be some isolated structure flooding in the Houston area, widespread flood flooding from Imelda “doesn’t look likely at this point,” Lindner said.

However, he said residents who live in flood prone areas should still be mindful and take extra precautions.

Officials in the Houston area were preparing high-water vehicles and city rescue boats Tuesday.

The storm, which formed Tuesday, made landfall near Freeport, Texas, with maximum sustained winds of 40 mph. Some parts of Harris County and neighboring Galveston County already received about 4 inches of rain through Tuesday afternoon.

Many schools in the Houston and Galveston area canceled classes Wednesday because of the storm.

In a tweet Tuesday, Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner asked residents to be “alert and weather aware.”

Brett Coomer, Houston Chronicle/AP

Felipe Morales looks under his truck after getting stuck in a ditch filled with high water during a rainstorm spawned by Tropical Storm Imelda on Tuesday in Houston. A man with a truck helped pull him from the ditch.

Imelda is the first named storm to impact the Houston area since Hurricane Harvey, according to the National Weather Service.

Law firm’s abuse clients paid $80M by Chicago archdiocese

Associated Press

CHICAGO — The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago has paid $80 million to 160 victims of sexual abuse by clergy represented by a single law firm since 2001, the lawyer who heads the Minnesota-based firm told reporters Tuesday.

According to a statement issued later by the archdiocese, it has paid around $200 million in recent decades.

Jeff Anderson, one of the most prominent attorneys representing accusers nationwide, said in a Chicago news conference it was the first time he’s publicly revealed the sum of payments to clients abused by nearly 90 clergy.

The $80 million includes recent settlements for seven accusers represented by Anderson’s firm.

Payments to the firm’s clients over nearly 20 years averaged $500,000 per victim.

It doesn’t include payments to survivors represented by other law firms, and doesn’t include more than 35 ongoing cases handled by Anderson’s firm.

If the $80 million figure is correct, that means clients of Anderson and his colleagues may have received around 40 percent of the total $200 million in payouts by the archdiocese.

The brief Tuesday statement from the archdiocese said it doesn’t disclose settlement payouts to specific law firms or individuals. It did acknowledge the payments have strained the budget of the archdiocese, which serves more than 2 million Catholics in and around Chicago.

“The Archdiocese of Chicago has made significant progress in recent years in stabilizing our finances,” the statement said. It added that the archdiocese still faces challenges “due to misconduct settlements, the declining size of our congregation and other factors.”

A July Chicago Tribune report cited archdiocese officials as estimating they may have to pay $156 million more to settle legal actions by survivors in years to come.

Anderson said payments to his clients over nearly 20 years averaged $500,000 per victim, with some payouts to individuals running into the millions of dollars.

The archdiocese fought litigation over book

The Texas Division of Emergency Management will have four boat squads in coastal areas. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will be moving boats to support the Beaumont area and adjacent regions.

Meanwhile Tuesday, the National Hurricane Center said Hurricane Humberto in the Atlantic Ocean is posing a stronger threat to Bermuda, though it was about 285 miles away.

Tropical Storm Jersey became the 19th named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season, though it remained far from land Wednesday.

Meteorologists also said newly formed Tropical Storm Lorena in the Pacific Ocean could produce heavy rains and flooding in Mexico by Thursday.

Gov. Greg Abbott on Monday placed numerous resources on standby across Texas.

The archdiocese fought litigation over book

In his memoir, Snowden tells his life story in detail for the first time and explains why he chose to risk his freedom by becoming perhaps the most famous whistleblower of all time. It offers an expansive account of how he came to reveal secret details about the government’s mass collection of emails, phone calls and internet activity in the name of national security.

Snowden was charged under the Espionage Act, a law that makes it a crime for anyone who “uses, or communicates, or transmits any national defense information to an un unauthorized person” without “authority.”

Snowden was facing years of prison and (with the United States) without complying with their pre-publication review obligations, Assistant Attorney General Jody Hunt said in a statement. “We will not permit individuals to enrich themselves, at the expense of the United States, without complying with their pre-publication review obligations.”

In a tweet, Snowden said it is “hard to think of a greater stamp of authenticity than the US government filing a lawsuit claiming your book is so truthful that it was literally against the law to write.”

The Justice Department is not attempting to limit the book’s distribution, but is asking a federal judge to allow the government to collect an unspecified amount from the book’s publisher. The publisher was also named in the lawsuit.

The government is suing the publisher to ensure no funds are transferred to Snowden while the case plays out, the Justice Department said.

Snowden, Ben Wizner, of the American Civil Liberties Union, said the book does not contain any secrets that haven’t already been reported by news outlets.

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Galveston looking to berth battleship

By KERI HEATH

The Galveston County Daily News

GALVESTON, Texas — Interest in bringing the battleship Texas to Galveston is mounting as the top favorites, though the vessel might dock. And whether the World War I-era ship comes to the island at all depends on which Galveston site local officials agree upon and whether they agree at all.

The Texas Legislature earlier this year announced it would no longer fund maintenance for the ship after it pays $35 million to Texas to Galveston is mounting as the top favorites, though the vessel might dock. And whether the World War I-era ship comes to the island at all depends on which Galveston site local officials agree upon and whether they agree at all.

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O’Brien picked as next national security adviser

BY DEB RIECHMANN AND DARLENE SUPERVILLE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said Wednesday he’s naming hostage negotiator Robert O’Brien, who Trump had monitor the criminal case in Sweden against American rapper ASAP Rocky, as his new national security adviser.

Trump tweeted the announcement from California.

“I am pleased to announce that I will name Robert C. O’Brien, currently serving as the very successful Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs at the State Department, as our new National Security Advisor,” he said. “I have worked long & hard with Robert. He will do a great job!”

Trump announced that O’Brien would become his fourth national security adviser a week after he ousted John Bolton, citing policy disagreements. O’Brien was among five candidates the Republican president had said Tuesday were being considered for the post, which does not require Senate confirmation.

As the special presidential envoy for hostage affairs at the State Department, O’Brien worked closely with the families of American hostages and advised administration officials on hostage issues. He previously helped lead the department’s public-private partnership for justice reform in Afghanistan during the Bush and Obama administrations.

Earlier this year, Trump dispatched O’Brien to Sweden to keep tabs on the criminal case there against ASAP Rocky, who faces a judge and jury ultimately found guilty of assault in August, several weeks after a street brawl in Stockholm that attracted Trump’s attention. Trump tried to intervene in the case by calling Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven in July and offering to personally guarantee bail for the rapper, whose real name is Rakim Mayers. Lofven told Trump he couldn’t interfere in a legal matter.

“Bobby finally gave my ring back this morning,” Evans said in a Facebook post. “I promised not to swallow it again, we’re still getting married and all is right in the world.”

Lawmakers seek expansion of hyperbaric therapy for vets

BY NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Two lawmakers introduced legislation in the House and Senate on Wednesday that would require the Department of Veterans Affairs to offer hyperbaric oxygen therapy for veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury — an unproven treatment that some veterans have praised as a useful tool in their recovery.


“This bill gives veterans an additional choice to treat these serious mental health issues,” Biggs said in a statement. “[Hyperbaric oxygen therapy] has the potential to help the VA make progress in their mental health and suicide prevention efforts. This is an avenue where we have a lot of ground to gain.”

The treatment uses pressurized hyperbaric chambers to send higher oxygen levels to patients. Former VA Secretary David Shulkin announced in 2017 that the agency would begin offering it to veterans with PTSD, despite a lack of evidence that it’s effective for mental health. The therapy has been federally approved for illnesses such as decompression sickness and carbon monoxide poisoning.

At the time, the VA said it was an “off-label” use of the treatment, but a promising one.

“There is nothing more important to us than caring for our nation’s veterans, and that care must include finding different approaches that work best for them,” Shulkin said.

The VA started using the therapy at facilities in Oklahoma and California to treat veterans with PTSD. The agency recently decided to expand the therapy to a facility in North Dakota, the West Fargo Pioneer reported this month. It’s also now available in Texas and Florida, the report stated.

The therapy is supervised by a VA physician and only available to veterans who haven’t noticed a decrease in PTSD symptoms after going through other, evidence-based treatments.

Cramer said his legislation would build upon what the VA is already doing by making hyperbaric oxygen therapy a covered treatment under federal law.

“I look forward to continuing to work with the administration and my congressional colleagues on getting more access to hyperbaric oxygen therapy for our veterans,” he said in a statement.

The VA said in 2017 that it would conduct new research into the effectiveness of the therapy before deciding whether to make it available to more veterans.

Wentling.nikki@stripes.com
Twitter: @nikkiwentling
Samoans give up right to bare arms in some Rugby World Cup training

YAMAGATA, Japan — Samoan rugby players will wear skin suits to cover their traditional tattoos during some training sessions at the World Cup in order not to offend the Japanese hosts.

Samoans often ban tattoos at some bath venues where they can’t, and for those places, we’ve been given ‘skins’ to wear to cover our tattoos,” said Alesana Aese, team manager. “But we are respectful and mindful to what the Japanese way is. We will be making sure that what we are showing will be OK.”

Samoan culture is based on respect and tradition, and the team management has been working closely with the sport’s authorities to ensure that the players’ traditional tattoos are respected.

The self-contained sports culture of Samoans is well known for its unique traditions, which include the use of tattoos as a form of cultural expression. These tattoos are deeply rooted in Samoan culture and are considered an important part of the national identity.

The decision to wear skin suits during training is a compromise to maintain cultural integrity while respecting local customs and traditions. It also demonstrates the Samoan team’s commitment to fair play and mutual respect.

The move is expected to be well received by both the Samoan and Japanese rugby communities, who are known for their strong traditions and sportsmanship.

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Election deadlocks Israel’s 2 main parties

By Aron Heller
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israel’s two main political parties were deadlocked Wednesday after an unprecedented repeat election, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu facing an uphill battle to hold on to his job.

The election’s seemingly political kingmaker, Avigdor Lieberman, said he’ll insist upon a secular unity government between Netanyahu’s Likud and Benny Gantz’s Blue and White parties, who based on partial results, are tied at 32 seats each out of the 120 in parliament.

Without Lieberman’s endorsement, both parties appear to have fallen well short of securing a parliamentary majority with their prospective ideological allies.

With results still pouring in, Lieberman insisted the overall picture was unlikely to change. He also demanded a secular “liberal” government shorn of the religious and ultra-Orthodox allies the prime minister has long relied upon.

“The conclusion is clear, everything we said throughout the campaign is coming true,” he said outside his home in the West Bank settlement of Nokdim. “There is one and only option: a national unity government that is broad and liberal and we will not join any other option.”

That could spell serious trouble for the continuation of Netanyahu’s lengthy rule.

Gantz, a former military chief, has ruled out seeing a sit-down with a Netanyahu-led Likud at a time when the prime minister is expected to be indicted on corruption charges in the coming weeks. It raised the specter of an alternate Likud candidate rising to challenge Netanyahu, though most of its senior officials have thus far pledged to stand solidly behind their leader.

Netanyahu, the longest serving leader in Israeli history, has desperately sought an outright majority with his hard-line and ultra-Orthodox allies in hopes of passing legislation to give him immunity from his expected indictment.

Israel’s attorney general has recommended charging Netanyahu with bribery, fraud and breach of trust in three scandals, pending a long-awaited preliminary decision.

That could spell serious trouble for the continued government held by Netanyahu, the longest serving leader is Israeli history.

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The election was called amid a tense diplomatic dispute between Japan and South Korea.

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South Korea lowers Japan trade status as rift grows

By Kim Tong-Hyung
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea on Wednesday lowered Japan’s status as a “white list” trade partner, a move that could complicate an ongoing spat over export restrictions.

In a move that will likely further strain relations between the two economic powers, South Korea said it would no longer treat Japan as a “white list” country. The decision came a day after Japan unveiled new export restrictions on three chemicals used in semiconductor manufacturing.

The decision comes after South Korea’s trade ministry launched an investigation into Japan’s export controls, which were imposed in July to restrict the export of three chemicals to South Korea.

The Japanese restrictions, which come amid a broader dispute between the two nations, have been described as a form of “economic warfare” by South Korean officials.

The move follows reports that Japan’s exports to South Korea have been declining, with some analysts predicting a decline of up to 40%.

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Blue and White party leaders, from left, Gabi Ashkenazi, Benny Gantz, Yair Lapid and Moshe Ya’alon, address supporters after the first results of the elections in Tel Aviv, Israel, Wednesday.
British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Monday, said a no-deal Brexit “might be the choice of the U.K., but it will never be ours.” After the debate, the European Parliament was set to adopt a resolution laying out its concerns about Britain’s impending departure from the 28-nation bloc. Oct. 31. Johnson has been adamant the U.K. will leave the EU on that date with or without a withdrawal agreement. The main sticking point over a Brexit deal is the Irish border backstop, which would require Britain to respect EU trade and customs rules in order to avoid a hard border between EU member Ireland and the U.K.’s Northern Ireland until a better solution is found. “I have no sentimental attachment to the backstop,” Juncker said, adding, however, that he remains attached to the purpose it serves, which is not to create border structures that could be detrimental to peace in Northern Ireland. “That is why I called on the British prime minister to come forward with concrete proposals, operational solutions and outline all alternatives that would allow us to reach these objectives,” Juncker said. EU leaders have made clear that any amendment to the current proposed divorce deal should preserve the single market and uphold the Good Friday peace agreement that ended decades of conflict in Northern Ireland. Despite his declaration that Britain will leave on Oct. 31 “do or die,” Johnson insists he can strike a revised divorce deal with the bloc in time for an orderly departure. European leaders are skeptical of that declaration. “I asked the British prime minister to specify the alternative arrangements that he could envisage,” Juncker said. “As long as such proposals are not made, I cannot tell you — while looking you straight in the eye — that progress is being made.” The Brexit agreement made with the EU by Johnson’s predecessor, Theresa May, was rejected three times by Britain’s Parliament, prompting May to resign and the fiercely pro-Brexit Johnson to come to power in July. Spelling out the need for the backstop, EU chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier warned that even if Britain leaves without an agreement at all, several major problems will still have to be resolved, including the future of citizens hit by Brexit, peace in Northern Ireland and the protection of the EU’s single market and the Irish economy. “None of these questions disappears,” Barnier said Wednesday, insisting that the challenges must not be underestimated. “We need legally operative solutions in the withdrawal agreement to respond precisely to each problem — to address each risk — that Brexit creates.” Some three years after the British referendum, it’s not a question of pretending to negotiate. It’s our responsibility to continue this process with determination and sincerity,” Barnier told the European lawmakers. In London, Britain’s Supreme Court was set to resume its hearing to determine whether Johnson’s decision to suspend Parliament was illegal. Judges must determine if Johnson overstepped his authority by suspending Parliament for a five-week period during the run-up to the Brexit deadline. The government’s opponents argue that Johnson illegally shut down Parliament just weeks before the scheduled Brexit date for the “improper purpose” of dodging lawmakers’ legitimate scrutiny of his Brexit plans. They also say Johnson misled Queen Elizabeth II, whose approval was needed for the shutdown. Noting in September, the European Parliament’s top Brexit official attacked Johnson’s decision to prorogue Parliament. Noting that Eurosceptic politicians often criticize the EU for being undemocratic, Guy Verhofstadt said EU leaders “can do a lot of things, but at least they cannot close the doors of our house. That is not possible.”
COLUMBIA — This little piggy should have stayed home.

The State newspaper reported that for the fourth time, Leroy — a Vietnamese pot-bellied pig — wandered over to Brennan Elementary School in Columbia, leading officials to slap McGregor Wallace with citations for owning a pig within city limits and having a fugitive pet.

Wallace said Leroy is his emotional support animal meant to help him deal with PTSD from domestic trauma.

Wallace said he got Leroy several months ago to replace a standard pig that grew too big.

He said Leroy knows how to open the home’s gate when Wallace isn’t home.

The 7-month-old swine is now at Columbia’s animal shelter.

**Catch of the day**

Madison Byrd, 10, of Nanty Glo, Pa., inspect a small fish she caught on a meal worm at Hinckston Run Reservoir near Vinco, Pa., on Tuesday.

**Police say girlfriend scorch ex’s home**

**Swingers club owes models for using images**

**US bodybuilder wins Mr. Olympia title**

**Couple’s castle to reopen for public tours**
In the Way Too Much TV Era, it truly is an honor just to be nominated. Indeed, you’re working on a television series, one of the many actors, writers and others who give daily thanks for the rise of cable and streaming that has led to gazzilions — at least — of shows and growing employment opportunities. Then, besides the possibility of at least your mom spotting you in the vast void of TV, they are watching and, hallelujah, decree you Emmy worthy.

Will win? Every nominee, of course, who would prefer to avoid being seen as also-ran smiling bravely for the cameras. There’s also the Sept. 22 Emmy Awards ceremony and Fox, the network airing it, with an event to sell.

“Game of Thrones,” “Veep” and “When They See Us” look front-runners, but the outcome is anyone’s guess. AP Television Writer Lynn Elber and Entertainment Writer Mark Kennedy offer theirs in the top categories.

Drama series

Elber — Should win: “Pose.” An opulent, clear-eyed embrace of the late-20th-century LGBTQ ballroom scene deserves its due. Will win: “Game of Thrones,” which brought cinematic splendor to TV.

Kennedy — Should win: Agreed on “Pose,” a loving look at a world that has never been celebrated on TV before, starring the largest LGBTQ cast ever in a scripted series. Will win: “Pose” is up against the behemoth “Game of Thrones,” which triggered parodies and homages, memes and talk show publicity. Even the president tried to co-star in theimplicit Winter Is Coming.” The Emmy is coming.

Comedy series

Elber — Should win: “Fleabag.” Such shocking sexual abandon and emotional dysfunction is downright un-American. Three cheers for this British import. Will win: “Veep.” A three-for-three winner won’t be defeated in its last hurrah, especially when politics are all the rage.

Kennedy — Should win: The second season of “Fleabag” — with a woman resisting her feelings for a priest and the debut of “Russian Doll” — in which a New Yorker keeps reliving the night of her 36th birthday, were deeply worthy of wins for writing and originality. Will win: “Veep,” the safe and more popular choice. But Emmy voters may learn to regret this predictable decision.

Actress, drama series

Elber — Should win: Sandra Oh, “Killing Eve.” A tour-de-force performance of vulnerability and, to her character’s dismay, brutality. Will win: Sandra Oh. Deserved, history-making recognition to the first ever Asian descent to win a lead actress trophy. Also makes up for her five “Grey’s Anatomy” supporting roles.

Kennedy — Should win: The mouse to Sandra Oh’s cat — Jodie Comer. She has, criminally, not earned enough recognition for her special brand of killer. Will win: Sandra Oh. Especially since look no Claire Foy from “The Crown” to ruin her night.

Actor, comedy series

Elber — Should win: Bill Hader, “Barry.” His scarily winning portrayal of a hit man with a Hollywood dream was voted tops last year and remains deemed. Will win: Bill Hader, “The Kominsky Method.” The Emmy should go to Anthony Anderson, the beating heart of “black-ish,” who makes lovingly exasperated completely hysterical but has been overlooked too long. Will win: The award clearly will go to Eugene Levy (“Schitt’s Creek”), who is a comedic treasure and rightfully should be showered with awards. His last Emmy was in 1983. It’s time, people.

Actress, comedy series

Elber — Should win: Catherine O’Hara, “Schitt’s Creek.” Should consider it a lifetime achievement award, with her delectably self-absorbed, absurd Marie, taking her place in the funny catalog of characters (and yes, I’m including the Christopher Guest films. Movies, TV — it’s all the same). Will win: Julia Louis-Dreyfus, who is a come-edic treasure and rightfully should be showered with awards. Her last Emmy was in 2015. It’s time, people.

Actor, limited series

Elber — Should win: Michael Douglas, “The Kominsky Method.” His Emmy would go to Anthony Anderson, the beating heart of “black-ish,” who makes lovingly exasperated completely hysterical but has been overlooked too long. Will win: Julia Louis-Dreyfus, who is a comedic treasure and rightfully should be showered with awards. Her last Emmy was in 2015. It’s time, people.

Limited series

Elber — Should win: “When They See Us.” The raw, heart-wrenching, disheartening, exposing tale of five inner-city boys railroaded by an incompetent legal system. Will win: Jon Snow with a statuette.

Kennedy — Should win: “When They See Us.” The heart-wrenching, disheartening, exposing tale of five inner-city boys railroaded by an incompetent legal system. Will win: Jon Snow with a statuette.

Jeopardy!” host Alex Trebek is battling pancreatic cancer.

Trebek says he’s resumed chemo

“Jeopardy!” host Alex Trebek said he’s had a setback in his battle with pancreatic cancer and is again undergoing chemotherapy.

Trebek, 79, told ABC’s “Good Morning America” on Tuesday that after a short period of optimism when he stopped chemotherapy, his numbers shot up and doctors ordered him back on the treatment.

The game show host announced in March that he had advanced pancreatic cancer. But he hasn’t missed a day on the show, which tape episodes in advance.

Trebek said his goals for the summer were to get his strength and hair back, and his progress on both fronts was dismal.

There have been no changes to this season’s taping and production schedule, producer Sony Pictures Television said. Trebek was scheduled to tape the final four episodes of a nine-episode tour of sponsored by Celebrity Summer on Wednesday and Thursday in Los Angeles, with the remaining five taped on Tuesday in Studio City, where Tapes for the Emmy awards ceremony last month.

Trebek’s convenient schedule has meant he may not have to miss any days on the show, which are taped in advance.

While he’s concerned about what his passing would mean for his loved ones, Trebek said he’s not afraid of what lies ahead.

“I’m 79 years old,” he said.

“I’ve had one hell of a good life.”

‘Rookie’ producer says claims unfounded

Production company Entertainment One said Tuesday the investigation led it to conclude no unlawful or inappropriate behavior was committed by any of the workers accused by Williamson.

In early August, “The Rookie” co-star said she was quitting the show because of sexual harassment and racial discrimination she experienced during its freshman year last season.

Williamson called the finding “heartbreaking” in a lengthy In an interview with Variety that day, saying the results were the result of lies and a cover-up. She vowed to continue to work to improve working conditions for cast and crew on sets.

From The Associated Press

The AP’s critics give high marks to Billy Porter and “Pose.”

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The heresy of hearsay returns to Kavanaugh saga

By Kathleen Parker
Washington Post Writers Group

WASHINGTON — The recent flap over The New York Times, which last week published the latest uncorroborated sexual-assault accusation against Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh, was a monument to hearsay and a travesty of journalistic ethics.

The story, since modified to include crucial information, was an excerpt from a book, “The Education of Brett Kavanaugh,” written by two Times staff writers, Robin Pogrebin and Kate Kelly. In it, the authors reported allegations by a Yale classmate that Kavanaugh was a “drunken dorm party” where “friends pushed his penis into the hand of a female staffer.

Setting aside the logistics of such a feat, more eye-popping was the omission from the original Times’ piece that the alleged victim refused to be interviewed for the book — and, according to friends, doesn’t remember such an incident.

Such an oversight is inexcusable.

The Times added these details to the story after they were flagged by The Federalist’s Mollie Hemingway, who had an advance copy of the book. The Times’ writers, who said that the details had been in the excerpt’s initial draft, made media contact to the accusers by both Kavanaugh and Ramirez’s mother, to whom she apparently told friends that she doesn’t recall any such incident amount to the very definition of a non-story.

Indeed, the authors’ only sources for the claim were two unnamed officials who spoke to Washington attorney Max Stier, who last year apparently told the FBI and various senators that he witnessed the alleged incident. But Stier refused to talk to the Times’ writers himself.

The truth is, Kavanaugh has been the target of a media siege since his name was announced for consideration for the high court. Ramirez’s story was first reported by the Washington Post just days before Ford’s congressional testimony, which, frankly, was flimsy at best. None of the other four people Ford named were contacted by the high school party where she claimed Kavanaugh groped her recalled any such gathering.

One of them, a close friend and the only woman named, has stated she doesn’t remember the party — but says she’s never even met Kavanaugh.

When the story was first reported by the Washington Post, an Associated Press dispatch said that America’s privileged youth had a serious drinking problem in the early 1980s; and boozing in high school and after adulthood are unreliable. Far more troubling is that several presidential candidates apparently would impeach a Supreme Court justice on nothing more than hearsay — and impeachable journalism.

If these stories are true, then Kavanaugh was a RuntimeException, monstrously, drunk in his youth. But all we have to go by is alleged victims who also were drinking at the time and came forward from former classmates, who may have also been inebriated, some of whom corroborate the Ramirez accusation and others who do not.

The Times’ editors are responsible for their editors. A recent Hong Kong demonstration called for passage by the U.S. Congress of legislation that would impose sanctions on mainland Chinese or Hong Kong officials who abridge the city’s freedoms, and it would restrict the Chinese special economic privileges Hong Kong gets from America. This would make U.S. relations with Beijing more uncertain than ever.

But Hong Kong could become yet another casualty of the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq, which made many Americans comprehensively skeptical of U.S. attempts, in the words of President John Kennedy’s inaugural address, “to assure the survival and the freedom of all the peoples of the world.” Hong Kong, however, unlike Iraq, has a vibrant democratic culture and civil society. Would its loss be a “nation building” or sustaining the reality of a petty that, without claiming or demanding the term, is being absorbed into the domain of an increasingly nasty regime.

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Ernie Gates
Ombudsmen

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Purdue Pharma keeps running amid bankruptcy

**By Michael R. Sisak**
Associated Press

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. — A judge cleared the way Tuesday for OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma to stay in business while it pursues bankruptcy protection and settlement of more than 2,600 lawsuits filed against it in a reckoning over the opioid crisis.

At the first court hearing since the Chapter 11 filing late Sunday, Purdue lawyers secured permission for the multibillion-dollar company based in Stamford, Conn., to maintain business as usual — paying employees and vendors, supplying pills to distributors, and keeping current on taxes and insurance.

The continued viability of Purdue is a key component of the company’s settlement offer, which could be worth up to $12 billion over time.

“Under the proposal, backed by about half the states, the Sackler family, which owns Purdue, would turn the company, its assets and more than $1 billion in cash reserves over to a trust controlled by the very entities suing it.

“The Sacklers have also agreed to pay a minimum of $3 billion of their own money to the settlement over seven years, as well as up to $1.5 billion more in proceeds from the planned sale of their non-U.S. pharmaceutical companies.

“This is a highly unusual case in that the debtors have pledged to turn over their business to the claimants,” U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge Robert Drain said. “All of the claimants, in essence, have the same interest in maximizing the value of the business and avoiding immediate and irreparable harm.”

Robert Drain
U.S. Bankruptcy Court judge

The modest rate cut the Fed announced in July — its first in more than a decade — left its benchmark short-term rate in a range of 2% to 2.25%. It also raised expectations that it would follow with up to three additional quarter-point rate cuts this year.

“Most economists have scaled back their forecasts for further rate cuts this year to one or two beginning Wednesday. A resumption of trade talks and a less antagonistic tone between Washington and Beijing have supported that view. So has a belief that oil prices will remain elevated, that inflation might finally be reaching the Fed’s target level and that the U.S. economy remains sturdy.

Yet no one, perhaps not even the Fed, is sure of how interest rate policy will unfold in the coming months.

Trump has kept up public attacks on the central bank’s policymaking, including referring to Powell as an “enemy” and the Fed’s policymakers as “boneheads.” Despite a still-solid job market and brisk spending by consumers, the president has insisted that the Fed slash its benchmark rate aggressively — even to below zero, as the European Central Bank has done — in part to weaken the U.S. dollar and make American exports more competitive.

Chairman Jerome Powell has said that the policymakers remain focused on sustaining the expansion and keeping prices stable without regard to any outside pressures. In addition to announcing its decision on rates, the Fed’s policymakers will update their forecasts for economic growth, unemployment, inflation and interest rates over the next three years.

**Fed likely to cut rates 2nd time as threatsloom**

**By Martin Crutsinger**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve expects to cut interest rates for a second time this week to help extend the economic expansion in the face of global weakness, President Donald Trump’s trade war with China and geopolitical risks such as the attacks on Saudi Arabia’s oil facilities.

The modest rate cut the Fed announced in July was its first in more than a decade — left its benchmark short-term rate in a range of 2% to 2.25%. It also raised expectations that it would follow with up to three additional quarter-point rate cuts this year.

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**WEATHER OUTLOOK**

**THURSDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

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**THURSDAY IN EUROPE**

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**FRIDAY IN THE PACIFIC**

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

**Thursday, September 19, 2019**

**Eugene Sheffer Crossword**

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<td>4 Locale</td>
<td>58 Fish eggs</td>
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<td>8 Throat clearer</td>
<td>59 Avenue liners</td>
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<td>60 LAX postings</td>
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<td>14 NYC gallery</td>
<td>62 Fuzzy Wuzzy</td>
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<td>15 Symbols on sleeves</td>
<td>63 The high priest’s play</td>
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<td>17 Rental units (Abbrev.)</td>
<td>64 The Midas touch</td>
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<td>18 Wilder’s “Town”</td>
<td>65 Scarf (12)</td>
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<td>19 Isaac Bashevis Singer’s language</td>
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<td>67 The government’s name</td>
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<td>24 Before</td>
<td>68 2000s space odyssey</td>
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<td>25 Sashimi fish</td>
<td>69 The capital of Vermont</td>
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<td>26 Gaiety</td>
<td>70 Gorge (9)</td>
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<td>28 Desert plant</td>
<td>71 Currency (11)</td>
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<td>32 Carriage</td>
<td>72 The Capitol (6)</td>
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<td>34 “— voyage!”</td>
<td>73 The City (4)</td>
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<td>36 Delhi dress</td>
<td>74 The spade’s name</td>
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<td>37 Sits for a portrait</td>
<td>75 Sulphur (5)</td>
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<td>39 Kids’ card game</td>
<td>76 The letter to the right (5)</td>
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<td>41 Scepter</td>
<td>77 The letter to the right (5)</td>
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<td>42 Peruke</td>
<td>78 The letter to the right (5)</td>
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<td>44 “Satires” poet</td>
<td>79 The letter to the right (5)</td>
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<td>46 Arched facial feature</td>
<td>80 The letter to the right (5)</td>
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<td>50 Costa — Sol</td>
<td>81 The letter to the right (5)</td>
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<td>51 Sandwich shop</td>
<td>82 The letter to the right (5)</td>
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<td>52 Grower of firs and pines</td>
<td>83 The letter to the right (5)</td>
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<td>56 Jubilation</td>
<td>84 The letter to the right (5)</td>
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**Answer to Previous Puzzle**

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<td>1 SToke</td>
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<td>21 Bivouac</td>
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<td>38 “I’m stumped!”</td>
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<td>45 Days of yore</td>
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<td>33 E</td>
<td>46 Kanga’s kid</td>
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<td>34 E</td>
<td>47 Olive’s cry</td>
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**CRYPTOQUIP**

HAJVDYJUFJYQLYD
KBCA-DWYKAJCEF TBJQGT
HBUH UJA AEHCAWX

**LA JCTBUGWA: VAJA VXJHWAT.**

Yesterday’s Cryptoquip: IN RECIPES, I TEND TO USE PLANT BULB CLOVES IMPORTED FROM FRANCE. I LOVE GALLIC GARLIC.

Today’s Cryptoquip Clue: D equals F
Classifieds

For information on Commercial Rates: CW: 0631-3615-9012 or DSN: 583-9012

Announcements 040

Automotive 140

Electronic Shopping 440

Furniture 510

Jobs Offered 630

Photography 830

SCAM FADS

Classifieds scams can target both sellers and buyers with classified advertisements.

Be aware of the common red flags:

1. Vehicle buyers wanting to buy sight unseen and have the vehicle shipped through an agent using a prepaid card.
2. People saying “free dog” (thieves breed for ad).

SOLVER BEWARE

Individuals placing classified advertising should use discretion in concluding the sale of their property. Not all potential buyers are reputable or honest. Stars and Stripes suggests that you take precautions to ensure that potential buyers are reputable and will be able to fulfill the terms of the sale. Stars and Stripes is not liable for the contractual relationship between sellers and buyers of merchandise advertised in the newspaper or on the website.

*STARS AND STRIPES*®

Go to stripes.com to place your free ad. Sell fast! Buy fast

When you see this camera icon go to stripes.com to view the uploaded photo.
Pro football

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

New England 2 1 0 1.000 31 19
Pittsburgh 0 2 0 .000 29 61
Baltimore 2 0 0 1.000 82 27
Jacksonville 0 2 0 .000 38 53
Miami 0 2 0 .000 10 102

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Green Bay 2 0 0 1.000 68 36
Kansas City 2 0 0 1.000 31 19
Pittsburgh 0 2 0 .000 29 61
Baltimore 2 0 0 1.000 82 27
Jacksonville 0 2 0 .000 38 53
Miami 0 2 0 .000 10 102

Pro basketball

NBA

Chicago 105, Phoenix 76
Detroit 114, Minnesota 92
Cleveland 118, Memphis 83

NBA Deals

BASEBALL

American League

DETROIT TIGERS — Placed RHP Mun- doum on the 60-day IL. Reinstated RHP Victor Alcantara from the IL. Reinstated RHP Mike Soroka from the 60-day IL.

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES — Placed RHP Corey Dickerson on the 60-day IL. Reinstated RHP Jesmuel Valentin from the 60-day IL.

MIAMI MARLINS — Reinstated RHP Justin Bour from the 10-day IL.

BOSTON RED SOX — Reinstated RHP Carlos Correa from the 10-day IL.

NEW YORK YANKEES — Designated INF Trey Vargo for assignment. Reinstated LHP Daniel Ponson from the 10-day IL.

SEATTLE MARINERS — Reinstated OF Chayce Craig from the 10-day IL.

NEW YORK METS — Reinstated OF Dan Butler from the 60-day IL.

TENNIS

Guangzhou International Open

Women's Singles

Sophia Kenin (3), United States, def. Kar- te K ..., Indonesia, 7-6, 6-0, 6-2.

Women's Doubles

Kasmira Shamsie (2), Russia, def. Kristina Pliskova, Czech Republic, 7-6, 6-2, 6-3.

Korea Open

Women's Singles

Surface: Hardcourt outdoor

Round of 16

Kirsten Flipkens, Belgium, def. Kar- slezal (6), Serbia, 6-1, 6-2.

Eleni Daniilidou, Greece, def. Kar- sl... (4), Romania, 6-3, 6-2, 6-1.

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Women's Doubles

Round of 16

Hana... (2), United States, def. Y... Zhuk, Ukraine, 6-3, 7-5.

Theresa Bajramovic, Italy, def. Daniellel... (4), France, 6-2, 6-4.

Women's Doubles

Round of 16

Martina Hingis, Switzerland, def. Anne... (6), Switzerland, 3-6, 6-3, 6-1.

Purse: $750,000

SCOREBOARD

Go to the American Forces Network website for the most up-to-date TV schedules.

American Forces Network

Brunswick, Ohio

Golden Knights

Carolina at Arizona

Denver at Green Bay

Atlanta at Indianapolis

San Francisco 41, Cincinnati 17

Dallas at Colorado

Toronto at Ottawa

St. Louis at Washington

Los Angeles (SS) 4, Arizona (SS) 1

Carolina 3, Tampa Bay 0

Chicago 105, Phoenix 76

Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2019

Tennis

Guangzhou International Open

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With Kuznetsov out, Caps look to rookie tryout while Evgeny Kuznetsov sits out the first three games.

By Stephen Ywyno
Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Va. — Connor McMichael in his NHL exhibition debut made a no-look pass to set up a goal that junior coach Dale Hunter knows was no accident.

“He knew that guy had an empty net back-door,” Hunter said. “You can’t teach that. That’s a feeling of the game.”

McMichael’s feel for the game made him the Washington Capitals’ first-round draft pick in June. Combine that with Evgeny Kuznetsov’s suspension and the door could be wide open for the youngest player in training camp to earn a spot on the opening night roster.

Kuznetsov will miss the first three games of the regular season and the Capitals will need to fill a void in the middle of the ice behind Nicklas Backstrom and Lars Eller. McMichael, just 18, is in the running.

“There’s nothing out of the question,” coach Todd Reirden said. “He made some really good plays in the scrimmage the other day, and he’s got the ability and our scouts speak very highly of him. We just want to put the best players on the ice whenever that gives us a chance to win.”

McMichael was the 25th overall pick in the draft. Aside from the top picks, very few players got right from the draft to the NHL.

Getting sent back to Hunter’s London Knights of the Ontario Hockey League was always the most likely outcome for McMichael, who is from suburban Toronto. But Capitals brass told him and other centers in camp that a potential suspension of Kuznetsov could change the outlook, and McMichael wants to seize his opportunity.

“You come into camp competing for a spot all the time,” McMichael said. “When another thing opens up, obviously you want to be better, and I’m excited for that opportunity.”

McMichael is competing with established NHL players Travis Boyd and Nic Dowd for the center appearance as a top-nine forward. Boyd or Dowd sliding up the lineup in Kuznetsov’s absence would be the safest play for the Capitals, though McMichael has already made his presence known in the competition.

“He liked him a lot in (Sunday’s) inter-squad game, made a couple really good plays,” Reirden said. “For him, it’s a matter of the maturity and whether the right decision is for him to continue to stay here or (keep) going with his junior career and continue to build on what he did last year. All those type of things go into the equation of when to let those guys go back and play or continue to keep them here and try to stay here.”

McMichael was a point-a-game player last season in juniors and should be a big piece of the Capitals’ future, especially after Backstrom and Alex Ovechkin are gone. With that in mind, this preseason is a mix of long-range planning and a short-term reward.

Hunter, who led the Capitals to the 1998 Stanley Cup Final as their captain and coached them for much of the 2011-12 season, told McMichael to give it his all at training camp to earn a spot on the opening night roster.

“He’s got to get his body a little stronger, but you can see his potential,” Hunter said Tuesday. “He’s got to get better and better.”

Dale Hunter
London Knights coach on Capitals rookie Connor McMichael

The 2014 Utes’ defense had 55 sacks, which is when the Sack Lake City nickname grabbed hold. They’ve got seven sacks overall this season. Oh, and speaking of sacks, Utah’s offense is one of four at the FBS level that hasn’t allowed one.

The Utes open conference play this week with a trip to Los Angeles for a Friday night game against USC (2-1). Utah has won just once on the road against the Trojans — way back in 1916.

“This is a mature team. This team seems to handle their business very well and my guess is that we will go down there, not overreact, and just play our game,” Whittingham said.

Utah’s D will see something new in LA: The Trojans’ Air Raid-style offense under offensive coordinator Graham Harrell. Freshman quarterback Kedon Slovis, who was impressive in his first start against Stanford, has a rough outing last weekend, throwing three interceptions in a loss at BYU.

Utah’s defense gets to see the Air Raid again the week after when the Utes host No. 19 Washington State.
Buckeyes picking up steam on the way to Big Ten slate

By MITCH STACY
Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — No. 6 Ohio State knows the games are going to get harder eventually, but so far everything has just seemed, well, so easy.

The Buckeyes haven’t played mistake-free football but avoided any big ones in overwhelming FAU, Cincinnati and Indiana by a combined 138-31. Granted, they weren’t playing opponents, but Ohio State has been highly efficient and proficient on both sides of the ball.

Running back J.K. Dobbins has rushed for 425 yards and four touchdowns while averaging 7.1 yards per carry. His 193 yards against Indiana — all but two of the carries came in the first half — put him at fourth in the nation in rushing yardage.

Quarterback Justin Fields, a Georgia transfer in his first year starting for the Buckeyes, has piled up 657 passing yards and nine touchdowns with a 7.03 completion rate in a balanced attack. He’s also run for four touchdowns and has yet to throw an interception.

The Ohio State defense has allowed an average of 57 rushing yards in the first three games. The unit has given up just one touchdown and one field goal in the last eight quarters. All-American defensive end Chase Young has been a disruptive force, contributing five of the team’s 14 sacks.

After struggling last season, the defensive backfield has been playing lights out, underscored by cornerback Damon Arnette’s dynamic 96-yard pick-six against Indiana last week.

Defensive coordinator Kerry Coombs has improved this season.

“This week against Miami of Ohio. The Redhawks (3-2) will take a two-hour ride up the road to the Horseshoe from Oxford, Ohio. A heavy favorite, the Buckeyes likely will get another chance to work out the kinks and get the backups some playing time before going on the road against revitalized Nebraska on Sept. 28.

They’ll have Michigan State at home the week after that but won’t see a team that’s currently ranked in the AP Top 25 until they host Wisconsin on Oct. 26.

Miami coach Chuck Martin is aware of the buzz-saw the Redhawks are walking into.

“It’s kind of like going to recession and they’ve got the first 85 picks,” Martin said. “You do pretty well at recess.”

The challenge for Ohio State coaches is keeping the players performing at a high level through another game against an overmatched opponent.

Day’s message: keep the blinders on and keep working.

“Don’t worry about what people are saying,” he said. “I don’t know how much respect we had coming into the season. It’s the same thing now. Just because we won a couple of games doesn’t change anything for us. We need to stay focused right now. We do have some momentum and we’ve got to keep that going. It’s incumbent on the coaches and leaders to make sure we don’t get distracted.”

As prolific as he’s been, Fields focuses on situations where things didn’t go so well, the ones that tend to be so clear in the Sun-day video tape sessions.

“It’s kind of like a ‘wow’ moment,” he said of watching the tape. “We still played pretty good, but we did leave stuff on the board. It’s kind of like we have so much room to improve, so it makes it more exciting.”

Test: Different challenge awaiting Nix

FROM BACK PAGE

Mond has played in plenty of big games.

He also played short in the biggest one so far this season, a 24-10 loss to No. 1 Clemson in which Mond threw for 236 yards with an interception.

Auburn coach Gus Malzahn has seen him mature as a quarterback over the past three seasons. Mond has passed for 747 yards and five touchdowns with three interceptions.

“He looks like he’s in command of his offense this year,” Malzahn said.

Mond has played in plenty of big games.

Surrounded by lesser opponents, but Ohio State has been highly efficient and proficient on both sides of the ball.

Ohio State kicks off this week against Miami of Ohio.

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Texas A&M coach Jimbo Fisher was the pitch-perfect coach for tight end and quarterback Patrick Nix, Bo’s father and high school coach. Bo Nix emerged as one of the nation’s top quarterback prospects and set a high bar.

Fisher said he knows Bo Nix “for a long time.”

“His dad’s a winner,” Fisher said. “He’s a great coach, coached in college, coached in high school. So, he’ll (Bo) have a lot of intangibles in his blood that some other freshman may not just from the experience of being around those things.”

Nix hasn’t put up big numbers, with Auburn last in the SEC in passing yards. He’s completing 52.4 percent of his passes for 545 yards with four touchdowns and two interceptions in a futile dealing with injuries to receivers Seth Williams and Anthony Schwartz. He also has flashed some mobility and running ability, particularly early in the Kent State game.

“I see him growing each game,” Malzahn said.

Since that Oregon game, Nix has faced friendly crowds and overmatched opponents in Tulane and Kent State.

Nix’s challenge this weekend will be de-cidedly more difficult.

He’ll be matched up with the SEC’s No. 2 scoring defense, a noisy crowd and a group of defenders trying to rattle the 18-year-old.

“I definitely think we can,” Texas A&M cornerback Myles Jones said. “It’s a fresh man coming into our stadium. I definitely think that’s going to be a big factor, too, with the 12th Man. They get pretty loud.”

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Texas A&M coach Jimbo Fisher was the pitch-perfect coach for tight end and quarterback Patrick Nix, Bo’s father and high school coach. Bo Nix emerged as one of the nation’s top quarterback prospects and set a high bar.

Fisher said he knows Bo Nix “for a long time.”

“His dad’s a winner,” Fisher said. “He’s a great coach, coached in college, coached in high school. So, he’ll (Bo) have a lot of intangibles in his blood that some other freshman may not just from the experience of being around those things.”

Nix hasn’t put up big numbers, with Auburn last in the SEC in passing yards. He’s completing 52.4 percent of his passes for 545 yards with four touchdowns and two interceptions in a futile dealing with injuries to receivers Seth Williams and Anthony Schwartz. He also has flashed some mobility and running ability, particularly early in the Kent State game.

“I see him growing each game,” Malzahn said.

Since that Oregon game, Nix has faced friendly crowds and overmatched opponents in Tulane and Kent State.

Nix’s challenge this weekend will be de-cidedly more difficult.

He’ll be matched up with the SEC’s No. 2 scoring defense, a noisy crowd and a group of defenders trying to rattle the 18-year-old.

“I definitely think we can,” Texas A&M cornerback Myles Jones said. “It’s a fresh man coming into our stadium. I definitely think that’s going to be a big factor, too, with the 12th Man. They get pretty loud.”

Ohio State's defense has improved this season, according to coach Kerry Coombs. The Buckeyes rank 85th in pass efficiency defense and 85th in red zone defense.
Pirates closer charged with soliciting child

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Pittsburgh Pirates All-Star closer Felipe Vazquez was arrest-
ed Tuesday on felony charges of pornography and soliciting a child and was placed on administrative leave by Major League Baseball.

Vazquez was taken into custody by Pennsylvania State Police on one count of computer pornography/solicitation of a child and one count of providing obscene material to minors. His arraignment was scheduled for later Tuesday.

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement said it began investigating the 28-year-old Vazquez in August after learn-
ing of an alleged sexual relationship be-
tween Vazquez and a teenage girl living in Lee County, Fla. Vazquez, who lives in Saint Cloud, Fla., and the victim began the relationship when the girl was 13, authori-
ties said.

The girl, now 15, allegedly received a text message from Vazquez in July in which he was performing a sex act. Vazquez also texted the girl to ask if she wanted to meet for a sexual encounter following the end of the baseball season, according to police.

Authorities arrested Vazquez and took him to the Allegheny County jail after exec-
tuating a search warrant Tuesday morning at his Pittsburgh apartment. Police said they seized electronic devices that will be used in the investigation. Vazquez will be extradited to Florida.

Vazquez, a two-time All-Star pitcher from Venezuela, is 5-1 with a 1.65 ERA and 28 saves for the Pirates this season.

“We take this matter, and these charges in particular, extremely seriously,” Pi-
tes president Frank Coonelly said in a statement.

The MLB commissioner’s office placed Vazquez on administrative leave as part of its policy regarding domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse.

Administrative leave is not considered discipline. Vazquez goes on administrative leave by Major League

Betances was sent for a scan and exam-
ination is to treat the injury conservatively,
and the team was concerned when he was
unable to get on his toes.

In other baseball news:

■ Dellin Betances’ season appears to be over after just eight pitches.

The New York Yankees reliever partial-
ly tore the Achilles tendon in his left foot when he hopped on the mound after striking out Brandon Drury, the second and final batter he faced in his season debut Sunday at Toronto.

Betances appeared to think it was the third out of the inning and landed awk-
wardly on the artificial turf at Rogers Cen-
tre. He had a smile on his face and wasn’t aware of the injury.

Betances was sore when he arrived at Yankee Stadium before Tuesday’s game, and the team was concerned when he was unable to get on his toes.

Betances was sent for a scan and exam-
ined by Dr. Justin Greisberg at New York-
Presbyterian Hospital, and he will get a second opinion from Dr. Martin O’Malley at the Hospital for Special Surgery. At this point, the Yankees said the recommenda-
tion is to treat the injury conservatively, but the team said the possibility of surgery has not been ruled out.

■ The Cleveland Indians’ postseason chances have been dealt another blow — second baseman Jason Kipnis has a broken right hand.

Kipnis will need surgery on the frac-
tured hamate bone, the same injury that has kept third baseman Jose Ramirez out of Cleveland’s lineup for weeks. The team said Kipnis will need four to six weeks to recover, which means the earliest he could be back is mid-October. By then, the Indi-
ans could be deep into their off-season.

They are still chasing first-place Minne-
sota in the AL Central and trailing Tampa Bay and Oakland for a wild card. The loss of Kipnis will make it even harder to make up any ground in the standings.

■ Hall of Fame manager Whitey Herzog is recovering from a minor stroke.

The 87-year-old Herzog became ill Mon-
day at his charity golf tournament at Forest Hills Country Club in suburban St. Louis.

The Cardinals say Herzog is “currently resting and doing well.” The team provid-
ed an update on Herzog on Tuesday.

■ Nicknamed “the White Rat,” Herzog had a 1,281-1,125 record in 18 years as a major

eague manager with the Cardinals, Roy-
as, Rangers and Angels.

Under Herzog’s direction, St. Louis won the championship in 1982 and also made it to the World Series in 1985 and 1987. Her-
zog was inducted into the Baseball Hall of

Fame in 2010.

Vasilyeva banned 18 months

SALZBURG, Austria — Russian biath-
lete Margarita Vasilyeva has been banned for 18 months after missing three drug tests.

The International Biathlon Union says its disciplinary panel “took into account the athlete’s degree of fault” when giving Vasi-
lyeva a ban shorter than the standard two-
year sanction. The 18-month ban still rules her out of the next two winter seasons.

Vasilyeva had said her packed travel schedule in her debut World Cup season meant she struggled with rules obliging athletes to give drug testers advance notice of their whereabouts for one hour each day.

The case comes at a time when the Rus-

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NOW AVAILABLE
**American League**

**East Division**

- New York: 99-53 (.651)
- Boston: 97-51 (.654)
- Toronto: 96-52 (.654)
- Baltimore: 93-55 (.632)
- Minnesota: 93-58 (.616)
- Detroit: 88-65 (.563)

**Central Division**

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**Monday’s games**

- Detroit 5, Minnesota 3
- Chicago Cubs 7, Philadelphia 2
- Atlanta 5, Miami 1
- Arizona 3, Colorado 2

**Tuesday’s games**

- San Diego at Milwaukee
- Philadelphia at Atlanta
- Kansas City at Minnesota
- Oakland at Kansas City

**Wednesday’s games**

- Miami at Arizona
- Philadelphia at St. Louis
- Texas at Chicago
- Texas at Seattle

*Philippines, 4 Braves*

- Philadelphia 9
- Atlanta 2
- New York 0

**Reds, 4 Cubs**

- Cincinnati 6
- Chicago 2

**Yankees, 8 Angels**

- Los Angeles 13
- New York 5

**Athletics, 2 Royals**

- Kansas City 6
- Oakland 4

**Twins, 9 White Sox**

- Chicago 6
- Minnesota 2

**Indians, 7 Tigers**

- Detroit 3
- Cleveland 4

**Blue Jays, 5 Orioles**

- Toronto 3
- Baltimore 2

**Astronauts, 4 Rangers**

- Texas 4
- Houston 1

**Nationals, 6 Cardinals**

- Washington 3
- St. Louis 2

**Brewers, 3 Padres**

- San Diego 1
- Milwaukee 0

*Scores from Monday and Tuesday’s games*

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Moustakas, Cain lift Brewers into tie with Cubs

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Mike Moustakas used one swing of the bat to give the Milwaukee Brewers’ playoff push a big boost.

Moustakas hit his 35th home run of the season, Lorenzo Cain also homered and the Brewers beat the San Diego Padres 3-1 on Tuesday night, their 11th straight win in 12 games.

“Moustakas, he’s always coming up with big homers,” Cain said. “I’ve been seeing it for a long time now, especially back in our KC days. He has the power. He always hits 20, 30 homers every single year. So, I don’t expect anything less. He’s definitely been huge for us all year long.”

The Brewers pulled even with the Chicago Cubs for the NL’s second wild card and both trail first-place St. Louis by two games in the NL Central.

Manager Craig Counsell likes how everybody is contributing during this late-season charge.

“We’re doing our jobs,” he said. “You feel like if we post a good record, a good game every day for these last 11-12, we’ll find ourselves in a pretty good spot.”

Moustakas teed off on a 1-2 pitch from reliever Matt Strahm (5-9) in the bottom of the seventh after Hunter Renfroe’s home run in the top of the inning tied the score at 1-1.

“I thought it was a pretty good spot because we kind of lose the momentum a little bit with the game tied and everybody pitchers so well,” Counsell said. “But, he took it right back, I thought, and it’s a huge spot.”

Reds 4, Cubs 2: Sonny Gray and two relievers shut down host Chicago, dropping it into a tie for the second NL wild card with Milwaukee.

Chicago had won five in a row, outscor-
Mariota trying to repair issues from Titans’ loss

BY TEREZA M. WALKER
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. Marcus Mariota has looked at the tape, and the Tennessee Titans quarterback is ready to move on.

Up next is a quick turnaround with the Titans visiting Jacksonville on Thursday night, and a chance for Mariota and Tennessee to fix some of what went wrong in a 19-17 loss to Indianapolis.

“I love playing when the lights are on, and I look forward to these challenges,” Mariota said Tuesday. “I look forward to these division games. And our guys I think will be ready to go. It’s going to be a challenge, but we’re looking forward to it.”

Playing in prime time could help Mariota and the Titans (1-1), who have some areas to fix already this young season.

After watching tape, Mariota said staying out of third-and-long would help. They have converted only 3 of 20 third downs, and Mariota has been sacked four times in only 3 of 20 third downs, and Mariota would help. They have converted 3 of 11 third downs, and Mariota and his teammates, all offensive coordinator Arthur Smith to Mariota and his teammates, all pointed the finger at their struggles on third downs for offensive issues. Too many times the Titans have failed to pick up a first down because they faced third-and-ten — or longer.

Smith took all the blame on himself, saying he must call better plays. Asked if he might be struggling working through his progression for throwing options, Mariota said he didn’t think so, though that might be a better question for the coaches.

“I feel like I’m seeing it,” Mariota said. “When the time comes and the journey’s ending in the pocket, just to get the ball out.”

Mariota was listed as not practicing with an injuryQuad on Monday during a walk-through. He said he felt good Tuesday before practicing.

Through two games, the Titans are averaging 167.5 yards passing, putting them 27th in the NFL. That’s up two slots from last season, but still less than the 185.9 yards passing for all of 2018.

Derek Henry ranked second in the AFC with 1,059 yards rushing last season, and he’s averaging 4.9 yards per carry this season and 87 yards per game.

“From what I’m seeing right now, I think he’s ready to move on,” Mariota said.

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Dolphins GM says quick turnaround a good possibility

Associated Press

DAVIE, Fla. — Miami Dolphins general manager Chris Grier says this year’s roster dismantling has been more drastic than he expected, but a turnaround can come quickly because the team will be aggressive in free agency in 2020.

In the wake of the deal that sent disgruntled defensive back Minkah Fitzpatrick to the Pittsburgh Steelers, no remaining player has asked to be traded, Grier said Tuesday. He said players and team officials are unified in their belief in the Dolphins’ rebuilding project, even though they have been outscored 102-10 in the first two games.

Team officials tried unsuccessfully to talk Fitzpatrick out of his desire to play elsewhere, Grier said, and the 2018 first-round pick was traded late Monday for a first-round pick in 2020. The Dolphins and Steelers also swapped lower picks.

The Dolphins have three first-round choices next year, and are projected to have more than $110 million in salary cap space.

“Whether it’s free agency or the draft, we’ve positioned ourselves where we think we can do anything and get whatever player we feel will help us,” Grier said. “We’ll be aggressive in free agency. We’re not going to sit back and not do anything. We’re going to be very proactive and try and get this turned quickly.

The roster purge included trading left tackle Laremy Tunsil and receiver Kenny Stills to the Houston Texans for two first-round picks and one second-rounder. Grier said that while the Dolphins hadn’t planned to trade Tunsil, the Texans offered an “historic haul” that was too good to turn down.

“I called Laremy about the trade, and Laremy walked in my office and saw it on the board and said, ‘I would trade me for that,’” Grier said. “We were not trying to do it.”

Regarding Fitzpatrick, coach Brian Flores, owner Stephen Ross and Grier had multiple conversations with him urging him to stay in Miami, Grier said.

“We tried to make it work,” Grier said, “saying we wanted him here and viewed him as a core piece. The kid just felt it was time for him to move.”

Grier said he, Flores and Ross are in agreement about the team’s directions and moves made. And Grier said that while the roster has been depleted, the team has a core to build around that includes Pro Bowl cornerback Xavien Howard and receiver Jakeem Grant, both of whom recently signed contract extensions.

“Those guys are bought in 100%,” Grier said. “We have a good group of young guys that want to be here.”

Meanwhile, short-term pain may be unavoidable. No team since 1961 has had a worse point differential after two games.

“We know that as the team was built right now,” Grier said, “it wasn’t going to win a Super Bowl.”

Steelers begin post-Ben life by getting Fitzpatrick

By Will Graves

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The Pittsburgh Steelers have no plans to haul on the season with Ben Roethlisberger out until 2020 with an elbow injury.

“Our level of expectations in terms of our performance will not change,” coach Mike Tomlin said Tuesday.

A day removed from announcing Roethlisberger’s aching right elbow will require surgery that will sideline him for the rest of the year, the Steelers (0-2) began the process of moving on by upgrading their uneven defense and bringing in some depth behind new starting quarterback Mason Rudolph.

Pittsburgh sent three draft picks — a first-rounder and a fifth-rounder in 2020 and a sixth-rounder in 2021 — to Miami for defensive back Minkah Fitzpatrick and a 2020 fourth-round pick. The Steelers also signed former Denver backup Paxton Lynch to the practice squad behind Rudolph and second-rounder Delvin Hodges.

Fitzpatrick, the 11th overall selection in the 2018 draft, had grown frustrated with his role for the rebuilding Dolphins. Miami began shopping him after a Week 1 loss to Baltimore and found a willing partner in the Steelers, who will be without starting quarterback Ben Roethlisberger after he underwent surgery this week.

Fitzpatrick had two interceptions in his rookie year for Miami and collected six tackles and a forced fumble last weekend against New England. He goes from a team that might be the worst in the NFL to a club that began the season expecting to be in the playoff mix. That status is uncertain with Roethlisberger out and the offense now in the hands of the 24-year-old Rudolph.

A third-round pick in 2018 who beat out Josh Dobbs during training camp to be the primary backup behind Roethlisberger, Rudolph played well during a half of work against Seattle, completing 12 of 19 passes for 112 yards with two touchdowns and an interception that came off a tipped pass. Tomlin doesn’t expect the offense to change with Rudolph taking over.

“From a team perspective, we’ve got a great deal of confidence in Mason (Rudolph). It’s the natural process that is team sport,” Tomlin said. “One man goes down; the next man steps up.”

Tomlin declined to get into specifics of the nature of Roethlisberger’s injury. Roethlisberger will have surgery in the “upcoming days” and there remains no timetable for how long the 16-year veteran will be out. Roethlisberger announced Monday night he plans to return for 2020.

SOURCE: Associated Press

Dolphins GM says quick turnaround a good possibility

The Miami Dolphins have been outscored 102-10 through their first two games. No team since 1961 has had a worse point differential after two games.
Taking on the 12th Man

Freshman QB Nix leads No. 8 Auburn into road test against Mond, Texas A&M

BY JOHN ZENOR
Associated Press

AUBURN, Ala.
Texas A&M quarterback Kellen Mond can relate to the emotions Auburn’s Bo Nix must be feeling heading into the Aggies-Tigers showdown this weekend.

Mond was once the youthful starter leading his team into big SEC road games.

Nix, a freshman, will be the center of attention when he takes the field for the No. 8 Tigers in the Aggies’ backyard. He does have some experience in this situation, albeit as an eighth-grader. Nix had only three or four starts under his belt going into a playoff game against eventual state champion Clay-Chalkville, but passed for five touchdowns among his eight completions in an 85-50 loss in 2014.

“As an eighth-grader, that was just intense,” he said. “That was my first time I was playing (on a) higher level as a younger kid. That was tough and it was just my second year of live football. But it was fun. I had a blast.”

Nix leads Auburn onto a much bigger stage Saturday in College Station, Texas against Mond and the No. 17 Aggies.

Mond has been where Nix is, starting most of his freshman season at Texas A&M.

Now, Mond, a junior, is one of the Southeastern Conference’s most experienced quarterbacks and well understands how difficult Kyle Field can be for opposing quarterbacks with 102,000-plus fans.

“I think it’s shocking for a lot of quarterbacks, obviously for a freshman who is probably playing on the road for the first time at a place like this with the 12th Man and Kyle Field,” Mond said. “So, it’s definitely going to be something he’s never seen before.”

SEE TEST ON PAGE 26

Auburn quarterback Bo Nix scrambles away from Tulane defensive end Davon Wright on Sept. 7 in Auburn, Ala. Nix, who has completed 52.4 percent of his passes for 545 yards with four touchdowns and two interceptions this season, will walk into a hostile environment Saturday afternoon.

BUTCH DILL/AP