



Fragile gains in northeast Afghanistan

By SUSANNAH GEORGE
The Washington Post

KHWAJA GHAR, Afghanistan — Victory against the Taliban in this remote northeastern province of Afghanistan is measured in distance: 20 miles of mud-brick villages and dirt roads.

That's how far Afghan Gen. Yasin Zia's motley crew — local fighters in T-shirts, Afghan Army commandos in American tactical gear, and intelligence officers in shalwar kameez — managed to push back the militants, who had come within 6 miles of the provincial capital of Taloqan.

"For us, this was a huge victory," Zia said from a dusty hilltop used as a makeshift base.

The advances against the Taliban here, as elsewhere, came at a price. Pro-government forces lost more than a dozen foot soldiers in the battles, both from friendly fire and Taliban counterattacks. And Zia and local leaders warn that the string of villages, long home to profitable smuggling routes, easily could slip back under insurgent control once troops leave.

Across the country, Taliban forces have expanded their reach in recent years, building strength in rural communities and, from there, launching attacks on urban centers. The Afghan government's control slipped to just over half the country in October 2018, the last assessment produced by the U.S.-commanded mission in Afghanistan.

The fight in Takhar province is one of a series of offensives that U.S.-backed forces have launched this year, as both the Taliban and the Afghan military have stepped up pressure to gain the upper hand in peace negotiations

'For us, this was a huge victory.'
Afghan Gen. Yasin Zia

Making War

Developers behind latest Call of Duty title called in the pros to create most realistic possible portrayal of modern conflict

By MIKE HUME
The Washington Post

The bones of the game were laid with drones and cameras, phone calls and questions, requirements and innovations. Rather than a fanciful brainstorm followed by code and keystrokes, as many would assume of a video game's creation process, the latest title in the Call of Duty pantheon formed around research and revelations, groundwork for a multimillion-dollar development process representative of the modern, multibillion-dollar

gaming industry.

It's a process that required a marriage of technological innovation and well-sourced storytelling, with the goal to produce the most realistic portrayal possible of modern armed conflict by a video game. It will culminate Oct. 25 with the release of Call of Duty: Modern Warfare, a title developed by Infinity Ward studio that figures to be one of the top-selling games — if not the top-selling game — of 2019. And its content already has been authenticated by two men who know well the game's subject matter.

The green-tinted footage plays on

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Above: A scene from game developer Infinity Ward's upcoming Call of Duty: Modern Warfare, the latest in the long-running first-person-shooter series, set for release on Oct. 25. **Right:** Retired U.S. Navy SEALs Mitch Hall, left, and Stephen Sanders, consulted on the title to ensure its authenticity.

ABOVE: COURTESY OF INFINITY WARD; RIGHT: PHILIP CHEUNG/Washington Post

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MILITARY

DOD exploits loophole to advance weapon buys

By Aaron Gregg
The Washington Post

Hoping to speed up the weapons development process as it competes with China and Russia for technological preeminence, the Pentagon has dramatically expanded its use of an obscure loophole that allows the military to ignore federal acquisition rules designed to protect the integrity of the bidding process.

So-called Other Transaction agreements, or "OTAs" for short, allow defense agencies to side-step the Federal Acquisition Regulation, a 2,010-page document that government agencies typically have to comply with when they make large purchases.

The provision dates back to the early years of the space race when NASA was looking to quickly acquire technologies from the commercial technology world. The Defense Department under President Donald Trump has made prolific use of such agreements, citing the need to move faster in some cases.

The agreements play into a broader national security strategy that is focused on shifting the U.S. military's resources away from fighting terrorism and toward preparing for an all-out war with a so-called "near peer" competitor such as Russia or China.

The Other Transaction Authority provision is meant to prioritize small businesses or so-called "non-traditional" defense con-

tractors that don't usually work with the government. But traditional defense contractors can also be eligible when they meet certain criteria, meaning industry giants including Lockheed Martin and Raytheon can benefit as well.

The Army is in the process of using Other Transaction Authority agreements to buy its next fleet of attack helicopters, awarding an initial set of contracts to a handful of companies that include Bell and a Lockheed Martin-Boeing team.

And it also recently finalized a \$384 million deal with Raytheon for six missile defense radars called "LTAMDS," designed to replace the Patriot Missile Defense Radar. The new LTAMDS radar is supposed to have a stronger signal and enhanced accuracy, thanks to the use of a new substance called Gallium Nitride.

Executives said the alternate process allowed them to significantly speed up the acquisition.

"The streamlined OTA rapid prototyping acquisition process gives capability to the warfighter more quickly," Doug Burgess, program director for Raytheon's LTAMDS radar, said in an email.

A recent report from the Center for Strategic and International Studies found that the Defense Department's use of Other Transaction Authority agreements has increased by about 350% since

Trump took office, totaling about \$26.8 billion last year. That activity has been led by the Army, with an 86% increase last year alone.

Defense analysts said such tools could be useful for accelerating the Defense Department's technology. They are favored because they provide a catch-all solution to what many regard as a broken acquisition system, analysts said.

"Contractors and the government alike don't really like the [Federal Acquisition] regulation. It costs money to comply with all of it," said Franklin Turner, a government contracts attorney with the Washington, D.C., law firm McCarter & English. "On the other hand regulations are there for a reason; to ensure full and open competition, to ensure everyone is playing by the rules."

Some analysts are concerned that the Defense Department could overuse the provision.

Dave Drabkin, a defense consultant who chaired the congressionally mandated Section 809 Panel, a group that provides recommendations on streamlining the federal acquisition process, called the Other Transaction Authority provision an "incredibly important tool" for maintaining the U.S. military's competitiveness.

He said he is worried, however, that Congress could one day take away that tool if the Defense Department uses it inappropriately.



DANNY RAY NUNEZ JR./U.S. Navy

Getting a check-up

U.S. Navy Capt. Michael Sullivan, a doctor assigned to the hospital ship USNS Comfort, sees a Dominican girl for a general health check-up at a temporary medical treatment site in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on Thursday.

Officer honored for saving man

The Fayetteville Observer

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — On Feb. 27, 2018, Capt. Travis Johnson was driving home on a pitch black road after hours of training at Fort Bragg and noticed a burning vehicle flipped on its side.

Johnson stopped to rescue a man who called for help.

Now a physician assistant with the 60th Troop Command's Medical Detachment of the North Carolina National Guard, Johnson was awarded the Soldier's Medal for his actions. Maj. Gen. James

Mingus, commander of the 82nd Airborne Division, recounted what led to Johnson receiving the medal on Oct. 9.

When Johnson stopped, he grabbed medical gear and combat shears as the other vehicle exploded with fire, Mingus said.

Johnson shattered windows, putting himself at risk, and cut the occupant out.

"This car's on fire the entire time," Mingus said. "He's burning his hand."

Johnson persevered and didn't even tell his parents about the in-

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MIDEAST

Kurdish forces, Turkey swap blame of fighting

By MEHMET GUZEL
and SARAH EL DEEB
Associated Press

AKCAKALE, Turkey — Syrian Kurdish-led forces and Turkey exchanged blame on Saturday for fighting that has rattled a U.S.-brokered cease-fire in northeastern Syria, as the Kurds appealed to Vice President Mike Pence to enforce the deal.

The Syrian Democratic Forces said in a statement that Turkey has failed to abide by the deal, refusing to lift the siege of Ras al-Ayn, a key border town. It said 30 hours after the five-day pause went into effect on Thursday, there were still reported clashes inside the town and medical personnel could not enter to help wounded.

Turkish-backed Syrian fighters encircled Ras al-Ayn just before

the cease-fire came into place, trying to crush Kurdish resistance inside. Throughout much of the day Friday, fighting was reported there and in neighboring villages that came under attack by the Turkish-backed forces.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said Saturday that Turkey-backed Syrian fighters have prevented a medical convoy from reaching Ras al-Ayn since Friday. It said a medical convoy arrived outside the town but Turkey-backed factions closed the road ahead and behind, leaving it stuck outside Ras al-Ayn.

Turkey's Defense Ministry said Saturday it was "completely abiding" by the accord. It accused Kurdish-led fighters carried out 14 "attacks and harassments" the past 36 hours, most in Ras al-Ayn. It said the Syrian Kurdish

fighters used mortars, rockets, anti-aircraft and anti-tank heavy machine guns.

The ministry also said it was in "instant coordination" with the United States to ensure the continuity of calm, excluding instances of "self-defense."

The agreement — reached in negotiations between Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and U.S. Vice President Mike Pence — virtually hands Turkey its aims in the invasion, requiring Kurdish fighters to vacate a swath of territory in Syria along the Turkish border during the cease-fire.

The Kurdish-led force, which had only a nominal, indirect role in the deal, said it will abide by the halt in fighting but has not committed to any pull-out. Erdogan warned Friday that Turkey will relaunch its assault on Tues-



EMRAN GUREL/AP

Turkish soldiers drive back from Syria, in the border town of Akcakale, southeastern Turkey, on Friday. The cease-fire in northern Syria got off to a rocky start, as Kurdish leaders accused Turkey of violating the accord.

day when the deal runs out if the Kurdish fighters don't pull out of a zone 20-miles deep running the entire length of the border.

Turkish Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu said 41 suspected Islamic State members were recaptured after fleeing a detention camp amid fighting earlier this week in Syria. He said 195 other suspected ISIS members had already been re-taken.

His comments were carried by Turkish television on Saturday.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has accused Syrian Kurdish forces of releasing some 750 ISIS members and families, amid Turkey's offensive. The Kurds say they broke out of their camp a week ago, attacking guards, amid heavy clashes and Turkish airstrikes nearby.

Turkey's state-run English-language broadcaster TRT World said the ISIS members and families were captured by Turkey-backed Syrian opposition forces.

‘Only God is with us’: Syrian family feels betrayed by US

By ANDREA ROSA
and JOSEPH KRAUSS
Associated Press

BARDARASH, Iraq — For months, every time Turkey threatened to invade northern Syria, Salwa Hanna told her husband they should take their children and flee from the border town of Kobani. And every time, he told her not to worry, because the Americans were there.

Now the Christian family is among an estimated 160,000 Syrians who have fled Turkey's offensive, which began last week after President Donald Trump announced he would move U.S. forces out of the way, abandoning their Kurdish allies. The invasion transformed one of the safest parts of Syria into a war zone, leaving displaced residents with a deep sense of betrayal.

Hanna and her husband arrived Thursday at a newly reopened camp in Iraq with their children and two small bags of clothes. They said they borrowed \$200 to pay a smuggler to lead them across the border and have nothing left. They were shown to an empty tent with a bare concrete floor.

"I left my home, and I had just started a new home, and I left it all behind," Hanna said. "There are no emotions anymore. We live as if we are dead."

They are originally from Afrin, a Kurdish enclave in northwest Syria that fell to Turkish troops and allied Syrian fighters in early 2018. There were no Americans in Afrin, and after the Kurds retreated there was no one to prevent the Syrian fighters — a motley crew of former rebels,



HUSSEIN MALLA/AP

Salwa Hanna with her children, who are newly displaced by the Turkish military operation in northeastern Syria, carry their belongings after arriving at the Bardarash refugee camp, north of Mosul, Iraq, on Thursday.

Islamists, guns for hire and outright bandits — from looting and pillaging.

"They stole cars, they stole whatever they wanted. They even stole sandals," Hanna's husband, Abdulrahman Ali, said as he waved a flip-flop in the air. "They stole everything. All in the name of revolution or whatever."

So the couple fled with their 10-year-old and their two-year-old, who suffers from asthma. "When they attacked Afrin it was winter; there were no doctors. I thought

my son was going to die in front of me," Hanna said.

The harrowing journey brought them to Kobani.

A U.S.-led international coalition had partnered with Syrian Kurdish fighters to defeat the Islamic State group, a campaign that began in Kobani after the Kurds were nearly annihilated there in 2014. Northeastern Syria, where armored vehicles mounted with American flags could be seen patrolling on the outskirts of some towns, was a rare refuge

from the civil war. Hanna and her husband found work and started setting up a new home.

But a shadow clouded their newfound sense of security.

Turkey views the Kurdish fighters in Afrin and northeastern Syria as terrorists because of their links to the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, which has waged a bloody insurgency inside Turkey since the 1980s. After Afrin, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan repeatedly threatened to expand the offen-

sive into eastern Syria, vowing to carve out a "safe zone" extending 20 miles deep along the border.

For months, the U.S. worked to hold it off, agreeing to joint patrols and other measures aimed at easing tensions between NATO ally Turkey and America's Kurdish partners. The presence of small numbers of American troops in places like Kobani served as a trip-wire to deter an invasion. Then, earlier this month, after a phone call with Erdogan, Trump announced that U.S. forces would pull back. The operation began on Oct. 9.

"For a whole year the Turks threatened us," Hanna said. "I kept saying we should escape because with the Turks there is no security. But my husband always said there are Americans, Britain, France, and they won't abandon us."

And then, just like that, the Americans left, and her family's fearful flight resumed.

The Trump administration has defended its decision against withering criticism, even from fellow Republicans, saying it was opposed to the invasion but powerless to stop it. After a senior U.S. delegation negotiated a halt to the offensive that locks in Turkey's gains while largely removing the threat of sanctions, Trump called it a "great day for civilization."

But nothing in the agreement will allow the family to return to either of their homes. Abandoned by America, they are trusting in an even higher and more inscrutable power.

"The foreigners are not with us, neither the Americans nor the French nor anyone else," Ali said. "Only God is with us."

VIDEO GAMES



Photo courtesy of Infinity Ward

A scene from game developer Infinity Ward's upcoming *Call of Duty: Modern Warfare*.

Realistic: Game developers guided by operational logic

FROM FRONT PAGE

The Infinity Ward theater screen as lethal silhouettes sporting night vision creep through a house. Threats are assessed and eliminated, the silence broken by the crackle of comms and the rattle of gunfire.

Mitch Hall and Steve Sanders, both retired U.S. Navy SEALs, watch a scene that looks as if it were captured by a body camera during one of their past deployments. In the back of the theater, Infinity Ward Studio Narrative Director Taylor Kurosaki and Jacob Minkoff, *Modern Warfare*'s campaign gameplay director, listen along with several others while Hall narrates the action. He explains the mechanics of the soldiers' movements and the rationale of their lethal decision-making as the on-screen sequence reaches its climax. Special operatives from the British SAS storm the attic of a terrorist-occupied town home and spot a woman standing in the center of the room.

"No weapon, that's the first thing," Hall says of what his training has taught him to see. "That's the first math problem you have. She seems, at least for the moment, compliant. And so that compliance gives us some time to do some more math and figure out if she's going to remain compliant."

She does not and falls to a burst of suppressed gunfire after diving for a detonator.

"I keep saying 'the math,'" Hall continues, reminding the



PHILIP CHEUNG/For The Washington Post

Bernardo Antrizzi, principal technical artist for the *Call of Duty* series, poses for a portrait in the photogrammetry room he designed at the Infinity Ward office in Woodland Hills, Calif.

audience in the theater of what the soldiers in the game had encountered in the house before this scene, with nearly every person in the house proving hostile. "All those floors, you keep doing the math. She had a chance to do the right thing. Then she made the bad choice."

If the bones of *Modern Warfare* were first set three years earlier, the action on the screen is the game's body brought to life. It illustrates the tension of the game's script with the tactics demonstrated by real-world soldiers, a blend the game's creators hope brings a level of believability no *Call of Duty* game has reached

before now.

Infinity Ward began to infuse more reality into its creation by quite literally putting more reality into the game. Behind a nondescript door and inside a white-walled room of approximately 100 square feet in the bowels of Infinity Ward's Burbank, Calif., studio sits a kind of teleportation device.

A cage of steel surrounds a small white platform, its exterior draped with cables to cameras and flashbulbs. Any item placed on that platform—anything from a used cigar to a full-grown man—can be transported into the game with the push of a button.

"It's just a big ball of light," Barry Sloane says of his recollection of the rig. Sloane, the actor who plays the hero role of SAS soldier Captain Price, was just one of the thousands of objects teleported into the pixels of *Modern Warfare*.

The process is known as photogrammetry, a craft through which the Infinity Ward team captured high-resolution photos of an object from every angle, stitching them together to generate a three-dimensional digital replica they can then alter and manipulate using their software. The end result is a photo-realistic digital item far more lifelike than any computer-generated object.

Not only is the result more realistic but the process is more efficient than the common practice of building a digital asset via computer generation. With photogrammetry, what used to take six weeks to create can now be scanned and refined in one, according to Infinity Ward Studio Art Director Joel Emslie. Over the past three years, everything from old tires to demolished cars to a tank have been scanned into *Modern Warfare*.

First, the object is photographed from all possible angles. Infinity Ward's rig consists of 200 cameras all connected to shoot simultaneously, allowing them to capture all the data they need in under a second.

Those photographs are then stitched together to create a three-dimensional digital version of the object.

That digital object contains millions of tiny polygons to give the object its shape, and while it results in a superdetailed asset, it also requires a lot of processing power for a computer or console to display it for the user. So, a little more work is required to scale down the detail.

"If you were to just build a character from scratch in software it could take six weeks to do all that work, and a lot of that time is to work on the little nuances, the subtleties, the paint chips and things. That's what really takes time," Emslie says. But with photogrammetry, the photography captures the details for you.

"Building a costume for real and just going out and hiking in it ... or rub some old teabags on it to make it look old, that's incredibly easier to do in the physical world rather than doing it digitally, where you're using software to simulate all that wear and tear," Emslie says.

The process also has a side benefit in terms of creativity, Emslie says. Putting hands on real-world objects and costumes brings the creators deeper into the game's universe. Emslie compares the vibe to the early work of Industrial Light and Magic, the shop that brought the world of "Star Wars" to life in the late 1970s and early 1980s and helped revolutionize Hollywood special effects.

The prop procurement process can sometimes lead to some awkward situations, however.

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VIDEO GAMES

FROM PAGE 4

There was one time when Emslie's team drew a curious glance at the checkout counter of a local hardware store when they purchased items to replicate an improvised bomb. ("I'm probably on so many watch lists," says Madison Cromwell, a producer at Infinity Ward.) There was also the time they grabbed a used mattress they'd spotted on the side of the road, only to be advised against bringing it inside the studio for fear of bed bugs. They scanned it in a back lot instead.

"We turn into kind of mad scientists with this stuff," Emslie says.

Their experiments however have provided a life-like, super-detailed setting in which the plot of *Modern Warfare* plays out. But it also brought an additional challenge to the creative process. The computational power required for such sleek graphics from the photogrammetry, along with demands relating to scaling and rendering while maintaining a smooth game-playing experience, made it clear the game would require a stronger framework.

Work began on *Modern Warfare*'s new game engine five years ago and will continue even after its release. During that process, Activision opened an engine technology-focused studio in Krakow, Poland, to handle the task. Rendering high-def graphics at high speeds (the goal is 60 frames per second) requires a big technological lift. To that end, Infinity Ward's developers needed new tools for the job.

"Once the studio decided to make *Modern Warfare*, our engineering teams sat down with the art and design departments to discuss the vision for the game. Immediately, it became clear that it would have been impossible with the previous technology to build a game with this ambition," says Michael Drobot, Infinity Ward's principal rendering engineer.

Drobot's team tinkered and tweaked and ultimately innovated. Now the engine can handle both a massive battle on a wide-open field and a claustrophobic, close-quarters encounter. In the latter, the engine permits players to angle their weapons independently of the direction the character's body is facing so they can make better use of available cover while firing, a real-life tactic used by special forces when breaching a room.

"*Modern Warfare*'s engine can allow our designers to scale the theater of action from tiny back-alley alleys, all the way city-scale maps, while providing the same level of features, quality and immersion," Drobot says.

Also of note was the way the team incorporated combat using night vision. Previous titles have simply tinted the screen green to simulate the effect. For *Modern Warfare*, Drobot's team fully rendered the infrared spectrum.

"In order to mimic real-life night vision and thermal imaging devices, we decided to go all the way and replicate the physics behind it, as well as final image post-processing," Drobot says. "We spent some time with our military consultants, tested a bunch of devices from different



Jacob Minkoff, left, and Taylor Kurosaki sought first-hand expertise to help them create an authentic, morally complex story.

PHOTOS BY PHILIP CHUNG/For The Washington Post



Various hats are used as props and are 3D-scanned by means of photogrammetry for the *Call of Duty* series.

eras, ranging all the way from very early [World War II] models to modern 2010s hybrid train/night vision devices. What came out of this research was an understanding of how important those light spectrums really are, not only for visuals but also for emergent gameplay, not to mention translating the experience to our player."

The end result mimics far more closely the real-world combat missions performed by special operatives such as Hall and Sanders.

When asked the value of night vision on the battlefield, Hall cracks, "Are you really going to make me say 'night and day'?"

Drobot presents a more specific example of the advantage for soldiers aiming their weapons.

"The most basic example would be the NVG light illuminator," he says. "It is a light attached to the characters' helmet or weapons that shines only in IR spectrum. This way it is totally invisible to the human eye, thus an enemy not equipped with an IR device won't see it — meaning your location is concealed."

This mechanic manifests at several points in the game, particularly in the SAS townhouse scene. With the engine now allowing more realistic tactical play, story leads Kurosaki and Minkoff could better make use of the expertise provided by Hall and Sanders.

Over the course of two hours in

the theater, the storytellers and SEALs take turns discussing the details and nuances that differentiate video game fantasy from the boots-on-the-ground reality lived by special forces operatives.

That's one reason *Modern Warfare* has incorporated what Hall and Sanders repeatedly referred to as "the math." It refers to the internal computations made to identify potential threats, a formula drilled into the SEALs' minds during their combined 45 years of active duty service, including deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan. "The math" helps soldiers determine when to shoot and when to stand down. But on battlefields where friendly forces, civilians and enemies are sometimes indistinguishable, it seldom yields a tidy answer.

"I sort of naively asked the question one day: 'So, you just look for bad guys with guns, right? That's how you determine the bad guys? The bad guys have guns,'" Kurosaki says. "And they were like, 'Are you kidding me? Everybody has a gun. That's no way to determine if someone is a threat to you.'"

It's a dynamic moviegoers will recall from films such as "American Sniper" or "Zero Dark Thirty." Kurosaki and Minkoff frequently cite those films as models for what they're trying to capture in their game — a complex and confusing battleground in which life-and-death decisions must be rendered in seconds and

where morality is continually questioned.

"We're in a world right now where we have, you know, 18-year-olds who have never existed in a world that didn't have the global war on terror," Minkoff says. "They know that there's not going to be a clean, simple case to any conflict. And so what they told us is, 'We want characters and scenarios that are realistic and relevant to the world that we live in.' And that is a world that is morally gray."

And so the game will have a moral compass. If players just start spraying bullets at everyone they see, the game will fail them, according to Minkoff. Make a judgement too slowly, and you'll be rebooting from your last saved checkpoint. It ratchets down the "Rambo" elements of past shooter games and emphasizes a dynamic similar to what SEALs and other special forces units face, albeit with far lower stakes.

"I've always said that it's just as important to know when not to pull the trigger as to know when to pull the trigger," Hall says. "Pulling the trigger when you're not supposed to gets you into a lot of trouble. I don't even mean by the media, or anything like that. I mean, maybe now the bad guys know where you are, or now it's really turned into a fight where before you could have just held off."

Video games have often focused on the entertainment-first idea that players derive satisfaction from spraying their weapons while enjoying a sense of invincibility. That's the diametrical opposite of what Hall and Sanders faced in the field.

Previous versions of *Call of Duty* have often featured a sequence in which the player barges into a room, gun blazing, to take out the bad guys. The SEALs quipped the game's designers of that notion.

"We were still operating under the pretense that you kick down a door and you say everybody throw your hands up and you just

come in with shock and awe," Kurosaki says. "Our [consultants] were like, 'We don't do anything like that. We haven't done that for years. It's just too dangerous. Why would you throw yourself into an unknown situation? Dive right into the middle of it and then get into a big shootout? That's not safe.' These guys ... everyone needs to come home. You know, one lost guy is an unacceptable amount of casualties."

Hall and Sanders both hope the game produces a better understanding of what they and other servicemen and women face on the battlefield.

"I've seen it in other entertainment products where they think it's super robotic, and it's perfect and clean," Hall says. "In fact, people are bunning into each other and you can't see all the time and all the while you're still making those critical decisions. ... There's a lot of calamity, if you will."

There could be some hazard, too, in making what may be one of the most realistic first-person shooter games to date. The *Call of Duty* franchise was specifically named by Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, R, in connection with a mass shooting in El Paso this year. And while there has been no evidence to support a causal link between shootings and violent video games, it is a stigma with which the gaming industry has often been confronted, perhaps more often than other media.

"*Call of Duty: Modern Warfare* is an 'M' rated video game intended for mature audiences," Minkoff says, referring to the game's evaluation from the Entertainment Software Rating Board. "And in the same way that a movie like 'Scarface' or 'Zero Dark Thirty' or 'Black Hawk Down' is intended for a certain type of viewer, we want to be making experiences for those types of viewers."

The game's realistic qualities weigh on Hall and Sanders slightly differently. In their role, they're lending their names and service records to what is ultimately, the game's developers remind, an entertainment product. They know there will be compromises.

"We have these conversations where we say, 'This is what it would look like if it was done in real world,'" Sanders says. "And then of course we know the balance between real world and gameplay. So we have these conversations and we kind of just meet in the middle." So there's some artificiality that we take in made-up game world and then try to make it look as good as possible."

And what are they most concerned about the game getting right?

"Operational logic ... it has to make sense," Hall says. The characters have to be motivated about the thing they're actively going after. ... We're trying to make it authentic. They're trying to make it entertaining and authentic. And we finally whittle it down to something that we can both live with."

The finished product will release Friday, a final blend of pixels, drama and flesh-and-blood troops.

WAR ON TERRORISM

Afghan village buries its dead after bomb kills 66

By RAHIM FAIEZ
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Hundreds of villagers attended the funerals held Saturday in eastern Afghanistan for the victims of a deadly bomb that killed 66 people during prayers at a local mosque.

Attahullah Khogyani, spokesman for the governor of Nangarhar province, said that the explosion also wounded 36 people when it went off as dozens of people gathered for Friday prayers in the village of Jodari.

He said it was not immediately clear if the mosque was attacked by a suicide bomber or by some other type of bombing.

He said the "latest" figure for the death toll was 66. He added that ten wounded were so far discharged from the hospital after treatment.

Villagers from the surrounding Haskamena district said that there were more than one hundred worshippers at the time of the bombing in the mosque.

Gulab Shinwari, a villager, said that when he reached the site of the blast with other locals, they found "a heartbreaking scene."

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, but

'Flagrant violations of international humanitarian law... are not something anyone should get used to or learn to ignore.'

Omar Waraich
director of Amnesty International's deputy South Asia

both the Taliban and the Islamic State group are active in eastern Afghanistan, especially Nangarhar province.

However, Zabihullah Mujahid, the Taliban's spokesman in a statement condemned the attack in Nangarhar and called it a serious crime.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres "strongly" condemned the attack and said those responsible must be held accountable, his office's spokesman said.

Amnesty International's deputy South Asia director, Omar Waraich, said the attack "demands the world's attention."

"Flagrant violations of international humanitarian law such as deliberate targeting of civilians are not something anyone should get used to or learn to ignore," he said.

The violence comes just after

a United Nations report said that Afghan civilians are dying in record numbers in the country's increasingly brutal war, noting that more civilians died in July than in any previous one-month period since the U.N. began keeping statistics.

"Civilian casualties at record-high levels clearly show the need for all parties concerned to pay much more attention to protecting the civilian population, including through a review of conduct during combat operations," said Tadamichi Yamamoto, the U.N. secretary-general's special representative for Afghanistan.

Khan Mohammad another villager said that on the day of the incident there were around 100 to 110 worshippers in the mosque, of which more than 70 were martyred and more than 30 others were wounded.



WALI SABAWOON/AP

Afghan men bury victims of Friday's deadly bomb blast in the mosque in the village of Jodari at Haskamena district of Jalalabad east of Kabul, Afghanistan, on Saturday.

Preliminary results of Afghan election delayed

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — An Afghan official says the planned announcement of preliminary results of last month's presidential election has been delayed.

Aziz Ibrahim, spokesman for the Independent Election Commission, says Saturday that reasons for the delay include problems with the transparency of the process, delays in transferring ballot papers and delays in transferring

data from a biometric system into the main server.

Ibrahim said restoring people's confidence in the election process is important and taking more time to get it right is necessary.

Afghans voted Sept. 28 despite Taliban threats and violence. However, the polling was marred by widespread misconduct and accusations of fraud, as well as controversy over an apparently low voter turnout on election day.

Fragile: Afghans forces' push to eliminate Taliban puts strain on residents

FROM FRONT PAGE

that suddenly collapsed last month. The violence has killed more than 1,300 civilians during the first half of 2019, according to the United Nations. The Afghan government has said casualties among its security forces are greater than the civilian toll but has not released figures.

Stepped-up operations in Afghanistan's northeast are aimed at pressuring Taliban supply networks and finances. American forces are providing intelligence and air support to Afghan ground forces, largely focusing on neighboring Kunduz and Badakhshan, which are home to larger numbers of Taliban fighters and the insurgents' elite units.

"Because the area is so remote, the Taliban have created bases here for smuggling networks and financial operations, these are very important to them," said Akram Anwari, an adviser to the local governor. He predicted the insurgents would soon try to retake lost ground. He said the smuggling networks send narcotics, precious stones and metals north and bring weapons and ammunition south.

This corner of the country was also once the stronghold of revered anti-Taliban guerrilla commander Ahmed Shah Massoud. In the provincial capital, his



SUSANNAH GEORGE/The Washington Post

Officers with Afghanistan's main intelligence agency lead a young man suspected of Taliban ties away for questioning near Khwaja Ghar, Afghanistan.

image still adorns taxi cabs and his name sits atop grand buildings with terraced gardens.

But just a few miles outside of town, images of Massoud vanish. It was in these sleepy villages where Taliban fighters slowly established footholds over the past decade as the group expanded its influence.

"When the government couldn't settle disputes, people sought the Taliban instead," said a local politician, Ghulam Sarwar Sadat.

He said the central government largely ignored the problem until last month when the militants launched an assault on Taloan.

"The situation had reached the stage where you could feel the gravity of the fighting," said Sayed Ashrafuddin, a local politician who was in Taloan when the Taliban attacked.

Ashrafuddin thought the capital would fall, so he evacuated his family to a neighboring province and begged the defense minister

for reinforcements.

Zia was dispatched to Takhar in late September with additional forces, but his primary task was to streamline the command structure in a part of the country thick with irregular fighters.

The difficulty of merging disorganized local fighters with a conventional military was made painfully clear early on in the fight. On Sept. 29, dozens of local fighters gathered at the home of a commander just outside the farming village of Baharak, not far from the front line.

It was night, and most of the men were in civilian clothing. Afghan forces on the ground mistook them for Taliban, called for air support and an Afghan plane targeted the house with an airstrike. Six fighters allied with the Afghan government were killed and 11 were wounded, according to the provincial governor's office. The defense ministry acknowledged the mistaken strike but said it did not have casualty data.

Sadat visited some of the wounded fighters in the hospital. He said they were screaming in agony and frustration.

"They were asking me, 'How could the government target us like this?'" he said.

Following the errant airstrike in Baharka, Afghan forces large-

ly used ground troops as they moved north from Taloan toward the border with Kunduz. Taliban forces launched a handful of deadly counterattacks, but in many areas they simply melted away.

Once large-scale offensive operations against the Taliban are complete in Takhar, the reinforcements from Kabul will move on to the next front. Zia said he will reorganize existing local security forces to hold the territory after he leaves. He acknowledged concerns that the Taliban would simply move back in, but he said intelligence sweeps would disrupt existing networks and make that more difficult.

Back in Taloan, after an evening meal in the garden of the governor's compound, one of Zia's commanding officers played a news clip on his phone of a rally held the day before by President Trump in Minneapolis. The U.S. president repeated his pledge to bring American troops home.

The Afghan soldiers shook their heads.

Zia was visibly disappointed, but he smiled.

He hoped "to fight a common enemy" alongside American soldiers, he said.

But either way, he said, "we need to slowly prepare for tougher days ahead."

NATION



EVAN VUCCI/AP

White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney speaks Thursday at the White House in Washington.

Republicans alarmed by shifting explanations on aid to Ukraine

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The shifting White House explanation for President Donald Trump's decision to withhold military aid from Ukraine drew alarm Friday from Republicans as the impeachment inquiry brought a new test of their alliance.

Trump, in remarks at the White House, stood by his acting chief of staff, Mick Mulvaney, whose earlier comments undermined the administration's defense in the impeachment probe. Speaking Thursday at a news conference, Mulvaney essentially acknowledged a quid pro quo with Ukraine that Trump has long denied, saying U.S. aid was withheld from Kyiv to push for an investigation into the Democratic National Committee and the 2016 election. He later clarified his remarks.

Trump appeared satisfied with Mulvaney's clarification and the president dismissed the entire House inquiry as "a terrible witch hunt. This is so bad for our country."

But former Ohio Gov. John Kasich, who ran against Trump in the 2016 Republican primary, said he now supports impeaching the president. Mulvaney's admission, he said, was the "final straw."

"The last 24 hours has really forced me to review all of this," Kasich said on CNN.

In Congress, at least one Republican, Rep. Francis Rooney, of Florida, spoke out publicly, telling reporters that he and others were concerned by Mulvaney's remarks. Rooney said he's open to considering all sides in the impeachment inquiry. He also said Mulvaney's comments cannot simply be

undone by a follow-up statement.

"It's not an Etch-A-Sketch," said Rooney, a former ambassador to the Holy See under President George W. Bush.

"The only thing I can assume is, he meant what he had to say — that there was a quid pro quo on this stuff," he said.

The tumult over Mulvaney's remarks capped a momentous week in the impeachment investigation as the admission, from the highest levels of the administration, undercut the White House defense and pushed more evidence into the inquiry.

GOP leaders tried to contain the fallout. But four weeks into the inquiry, the events around Trump's interaction with the Ukraine president, which are at the heart of impeachment, have upended Washington.

A beloved House chairman, Rep. Elijah Cummings, D-Md., a leading figure in the investigation, died amid ongoing health challenges.

The Energy Secretary, Rick Perry, who has been caught up in the probe, announced his resignation. On Friday, the Energy Department sent a letter to House committee chairs saying it would not comply with a subpoena for documents and communications.

The march toward an impeachment vote now seems all but inevitable, so much so that the highest-ranking Republican, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, privately told his GOP colleagues last week to expect action in the House by Thanksgiving, with a Senate trial by Christmas.

time, American officials were trying to persuade Ukrainian officials to avoid conflicts of interest.

Kent said he was told Biden wasn't able to deal with the issue at the time because was his other son, Beau, had cancer, according to the press.

The Washington Post first reported that Kent told the lawmakers about his concerns.

Kent responded to the reports in a statement Friday from his lawyers, Andrew Wright and Barry Hartman. They cautioned that individual comments may not reflect the whole of the diplomat's 10-hour testimony and that "those engaged in the

broad political debate on either side will likely find both utility and inconvenience in his testimony."

They added, "He was not there to testify on behalf of any side."

Kent's testimony came as White House and State Department officials told lawmakers last week in private depositions that he had concerns about Trump delegating his Ukrainian policy to his lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, and pushing out the former Ukrainian ambassador, Marie Yovanovitch. Democrats launched the impeachment inquiry to investigate Trump's requests that Ukraine investigate Hunter Biden as Joe Biden ran in the Democratic

Schiff's handling of impeachment frustrates GOP

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — There is no Archibald Cox or Ken Starr to be found in President Donald Trump's impeachment. So it's up to Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., to build the case.

While those independent prosecutors launched the investigations of Presidents Richard Nixon and Bill Clinton, there is no comparative figure in the House impeachment inquiry. Former special counsel Robert Mueller led the Russia probe, but no new prosecutor has been tapped by Attorney General William Barr for the Ukraine matter. That leaves House Democrats with only a whistleblower's complaint, rather than boxes of investigators' evidence to guide them.

"Congress has to do that," Schiff said, because the Justice Department believes "there's nothing to see here."

Schiff, the chairman of the House intelligence committee, is leading the probe at the direction of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and proceeding like the prosecutor he once was, staging a grand jury-like process that has been pilloried by Republicans. As Schiff works behind closed doors to build the case, Republicans accuse Democrats of waging an unfair — and, according to the White House, illegitimate — investigation. But Schiff says the House has few other choices than to build the case on its own.

Working from the outside in to collect evidence, Schiff is probing Trump's attempt to pressure Ukraine into investigating Democrats in the 2016 election and the family of his 2020 rival, Joe Biden. That means private hearings, keeping the witnesses separated and the depositions closed to prevent people from coordinating their testimony or concealing the truth.

"The special counsels in the

Nixon and Clinton impeachments conducted their investigations in private, and we must initially do the same," Schiff wrote in a letter to colleagues last week.

Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, D-Mo., praised the work of House Democratic investigators but contrasted their resources with those of Mueller, who had a bigger budget and assistance from the FBI.

Cleaver said officials caught up in the Ukraine probe "ought to be thankful we have to use our own



Schiff

investigators. If we had the use of the FBI, things would be turning up daily."

Republicans complain the investigation denies due process

to the president and subpoena power for the minority party to call its own witnesses.

"Adam Schiff is not a prosecutor in this case," said Louisiana Rep. Steve Scalise, but he's "acting like one and doing it in secret without fair rules."

While the push-and-pull over process is typical for Congress, the stakes are anything but ordinary, part of a broader struggle over impeachment heading into the 2020 elections. The debate could help determine whether Democrats succeed in convincing voters that Trump's conduct was a gross abuse of power worthy of removal from office, or Republicans help him beat the charges, both in a Senate trial and the jury box of public opinion.

Richard Ben-Veniste, a former Watergate prosecutor, said it's a "target-rich environment for the investigation of misdeeds by the president." He expects the probe will eventually result in articles of impeachment against Trump.

primary to oust Trump in 2020.

There is no evidence of wrongdoing by either Biden, but Trump and some of his Republican allies have tried to keep the focus on his political rival's son.

Hunter Biden last week acknowledged that his family name created business opportunities, but he rejected assertions from Trump and other Republicans that he did anything wrong by engaging in foreign work in Ukraine and China.

"Did I make a mistake? Maybe in the grand scheme of things," Hunter Biden said in an ABC News interview. "But did I make a mistake based on some ethical lapse? Absolutely not."

Diplomat said to have questioned optics of Hunter Biden job

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Deputy Assistant Secretary of State George Kent told impeachment investigators last week that he had raised concerns in 2015 about Hunter Biden, the son of then-Vice President Joe Biden, working with a Ukrainian gas company.

Kent told lawmakers investigating President Donald Trump's dealings with Ukraine that he'd questioned the optics of Hunter Biden serving on the gas company's board, according to a person familiar with the testimony who requested anonymity to discuss the closed-door session. At the

NATION

Trump exceeds Obama in executive orders

By KEVIN FREKING
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It wasn't too long ago that Donald Trump derided presidential executive orders as "power grabs" and a "basic disaster."

He's switched sides in a big way. In each year of his presidency, he has issued more executive orders than did former President Barack Obama during the same time span. He surpassed Obama's third-year total just recently.

Back in 2012, Trump had tweeted: "Why Is @BarackObama constantly issuing executive orders that are major power grabs of authority?"

That criticism continued once he entered the presidential race.

"The country wasn't based on executive orders," Trump said at a South Carolina campaign stop

in February 2016. "Right now, Obama goes around signing executive orders. He can't even get along with the Democrats, and he goes around signing all these executive orders. It's a basic disaster. You can't do it."

But Trump appears to have learned what his predecessors discovered as well: It's easier and often more satisfying to get things done through administrative action than to get Congress to go along, said Andrew Rudalevige, a professor at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, who studies the history and effectiveness of presidential executive actions.

"Most candidates don't realize the utility of executive actions while campaigning," Rudalevige said. "When they become president, they quickly gain an appreciation of how difficult it is to get things done in government."

He surpassed Obama's third-year total when, in the last two weeks, he issued five executive orders relating to Medicare, government transparency, federal spending and imposing sanctions on Turkish officials.

An executive order can have the same effect as a federal law — but its impact can be fleeting. Congress can pass a new law to override an executive order and future presidents can undo them.

Every president since George Washington has used the executive order power, according to the National Constitution Center, and some of those orders played a critical role in American history. President Franklin Roosevelt established internment camps during World War II. President Harry Truman mandated equal treatment of all members of the armed forces through executive

orders. And President Dwight Eisenhower used an executive order to enforce school desegregation in Little Rock, Ark.

When Obama became frustrated with how difficult it was to push legislation through Congress, he warned Republicans he would take executive action when he considered it necessary.

He famously declared in 2014: "We're not just going to be waiting for legislation in order to make sure that we're providing Americans the kind of help they need. I've got a pen and I've got a phone."

Few candidates for office have placed so much emphasis on criticizing a predecessor's executive orders as Trump did. He reasoned that Obama's use of executive orders made him look like a weak negotiator. But Trump himself has had little success with Con-

gress in that regard. His biggest legislative achievement so far, a \$1.5 trillion tax cut, failed to gain one Democratic vote.

Trump has so far issued 130 executive orders. By comparison, Obama issued 108 in his first three years.

Still, Rudalevige said comparing executive orders from one president to the next can provide a misleading snapshot of a president's propensity for taking executive action. That's because presidents also use memoranda and proclamations to achieve policy goals or to get the message out about their priorities. One president's executive order might be another's memorandum — or phone call even.

Rudalevige said Trump appears to favor the pomp and ceremony that often comes with an executive order.

Juul takes certain products off market

By MATTHEW PERRONE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Juul Labs stopped selling fruit and dessert flavored Thursday, acknowledging the public's "lack of trust" in the vaping industry.

The voluntary step is the company's latest attempt to weather a growing political backlash that blames its flavored-nicotine products for hooking a generation of teenagers on electronic cigarettes.

Juul, the best-selling e-cigarette brand in the U.S., has been besieged by scrutiny, including multiple investigations by Congress, federal agencies and several state attorneys general. The company is also being sued by adults and underage Juul users who claim they became addicted to nicotine through the company's

products. And the Trump administration has proposed banning nearly all vaping flavors.

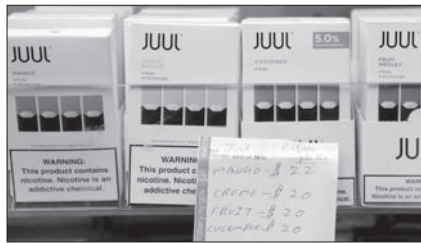
Still, the company's latest step is unlikely to satisfy its critics.

The flavors affected by Thursday's announcement — mango, creme, fruit and cucumber — account for less than 10% of Juul's sales. The flavors had been sold only through Juul's website after the company pulled them from stores last November.

Juul will continue selling its most popular flavors, mint and menthol, for now. A spokesman said the company is reviewing its products and has not made "any final decisions."

Mint and menthol account for most of Juul's retail sales, according to analysts, and are the most popular flavors among teens.

The San Francisco-based company will also continue to sell its



On Thursday, Juul announced it will voluntarily stop selling its fruit- and dessert-flavored vaping pods.

tobacco-flavored vaping pods.

The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids' Matthew Myers said Juul's decision to keep selling mint and menthol shows "it isn't serious about preventing youth use."

"Juul knows that 64% of high school e-cigarette users now use mint or menthol flavors, and this number is growing all the time," Myers said in a statement.

His group and others are urging the Trump administration to follow through on its proposal to ban all vaping flavors except tobacco.

The sales concession comes less than a month after a major shake-up at the privately held firm, in which it pledged to stop advertising and agreed to not lobby against the administration's proposed flavor ban.

Trump taps Perry deputy to head DOE

By HELEN KNICKMEYER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Friday selected Dan Brouillette, deputy to departing Secretary Rick Perry, to lead the Department of Energy, calling him a "total professional" with unparalleled experience.

Trump acted quickly, just a day after Perry told the president that he would leave by year's end.

Perry said his decision was not related to his role in administration actions on Ukraine that are now the focus of a House impeachment inquiry.

Brouillette

Brouillette has embraced Trump's call for U.S. dominance of international energy markets and says he backs an "all of the above" policy that promotes nuclear and renewable solar and wind energy, as well as coal, natural gas and oil.

Environmental groups, many lawmakers and others fault the administration for trying to spur the country's oil and gas production boom rather than rein in the climate-damaging fossil fuels.

He has traveled from Japan to former Soviet states to Qatar and Israel and beyond promoting U.S. natural gas and natural gas production companies.

"When it comes to exporting LNG (liquefied natural gas), the United States is open for business," Brouillette said in one such European stop last year.



38 people cited for violations in Hillary Clinton email probe

By MATTHEW LEE
AND MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The State Department has completed its internal investigation into former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's use of private email and found violations by 38 people, some of whom may face disciplinary action.

The investigation, launched more than three years ago, determined that those 38 people were "culpable" in 91 cases of sending classified information that ended up in Clinton's personal email, according to a letter sent to Republican Sen. Chuck Grassley last week and released on Friday.

The 38 are current and former State Department officials but were not identified.

Although the report identified violations, it said investigators had found "no persuasive evidence of systemic, deliberate mishandling of classified information." However, it also made clear that Clinton's use of the private email had increased the vulnerability of classified information.

The investigation covered 33,000 emails that Clinton turned over for review after her use of a private email account became public. The department said it found a total of 588 violations involving information then or now deemed to be classified,

but it could not assign fault in 497 cases.

For current and former officials, culpability means the violations will be noted in their files and will be considered when they apply for or go to renew security clearances. For current officials, there could also be some kind of disciplinary action.

The report concluded "that the use of a private email system to conduct official business added an increased degree of risk of compromise as a private system lacks the network monitoring and intrusion detection capabilities of State Department networks."

The department began the review in 2016 after declaring 22 emails from Clinton's private

server to be "top secret." Clinton was then running for president against Donald Trump, and Trump made the server a major focus of his campaign.

Then-FBI Director James Comey held a news conference that year in which he criticized Clinton as "extremely careless" in her use of the private email server as secretary of state but said the FBI would not recommend charges.

The Justice Department's inspector general said FBI specialists did not find evidence that the server had been hacked, with one forensics agent saying he felt "fairly confident that there wasn't an intrusion."

NATION

Gabbard fires back after Russian pawn suggestion

By HUNTER WOODALL
Associated Press

MANCHESTER, N.H. — It's Hillary Clinton vs. Tulsi Gabbard on the sidelines of the 2020 presidential race.

The Hawaii congresswoman fought back unsparringly after Clinton appeared to call her "the favorite of the Russians" in a recent interview and said she believes the Russians have "got their eye on somebody who's currently in the Democratic primary and are grooming her to be the third-party candidate." Clinton, the former senator, U.S. secretary of state and 2016 Democratic presidential candidate, did not name Gabbard directly.

In a series of tweets Friday, Gabbard called Clinton the "personification of the rot that has sickened the Democratic Party for so long." Gabbard also alleged

there has been a "concerted campaign" to destroy her reputation since she announced her presidential run in January.

"It's now clear that this primary is between you and me," Gabbard tweeted about Clinton. "Don't cowardly hide behind your proxies. Join the race directly."

There is lingering trepidation in the Democratic Party of a repeat of the 2016 presidential race, when Russia interfered in the U.S. election in an effort to help Donald Trump defeat Clinton. U.S. intelligence agencies have warned that Russia intends to meddle in the 2020 presidential election, as well. Russian President Vladimir Putin has mocked that possibility, joking earlier this month that Moscow would "definitely intervene" again.

During a Democratic presidential debate on Tuesday, Gabbard criticized a TV commentator who

she said had called her "an asset of Russia." She called the comments "completely despicable."

Without naming Gabbard, Clinton seemed to echo the commentator's remark during a podcast appearance last week on "Campaign HQ with David Plouffe." Plouffe was campaign manager for President Barack Obama in 2008 and served as a senior adviser to the president.

"She's the favorite of the Russians," Clinton said, referring to the person she had earlier identified as a woman "who's currently in the Democratic primary." "They have a bunch of sites and bots and other ways of supporting her so far."

Clinton also called Trump "Vladimir Putin's dream" in the interview. She went on to say that Trump's inauguration speech was "like a declaration of war on half of America." Clinton also de-



JOHN MINICHILLO/AP

Democratic presidential candidate Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, D-Hawaii, participates in the Democratic presidential primary debate hosted by CNN/New York Times at Otterbein University in Westerville, Ohio.

scribes 2016 Green Party presidential candidate Jill Stein as "a Russian asset."

The Russians know they can't win without a third-party candidate, Clinton added.

Gabbard said later Friday on CBSN that she "will not be leaving the Democratic Party. I will not be running as an independent or a third-party candidate."

Stein, who ran against Trump and Clinton as a Green Party candidate, received about 1% of the vote in the 2016 election,

but some Democrats said her candidacy syphoned votes away from Clinton and helped Trump win, particularly in states like Wisconsin.

The Senate Intelligence Committee asked Stein for documents as part of its probe into Russian interference in the election because she attended a 2015 dinner in Moscow sponsored by Russian television network RT with Putin. Stein has said she attended "with a message of Middle East peace, diplomacy and cooperation."

Sanders ready for 'vigorous' campaign after heart scare

By STEVE PEOPLES
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Bernie Sanders isn't going anywhere.

Less than three weeks after suffering a heart attack, the Democratic presidential contender is beginning what he's calling a "vigorous" return to the campaign trail with a rally that was expected to draw thousands of supporters to New York City on Saturday afternoon. One of them will be Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, 30, Sanders' latest high-profile endorsement, who was scheduled to share the stage with Sanders this weekend and give his stagnant White House bid an instant dose of energy.

The event marks a coming-out party of sorts for the Vermont senator, 78, who left the campaign trail earlier this month after he underwent emergency heart surgery but who insists that he's more committed than ever to his 2020 White House bid. With the first voting contests less than four months away, he has some work to do.

Beyond health concerns, Sanders

suddenly finds himself looking up at progressive rival Elizabeth Warren and establishment favorite Joe Biden in the polls. Now he must reassure voters that he has the physical stamina to go forward while addressing broader concerns that his policies may be too far left to defeat President Donald Trump in a general election.

Enter Ocasio-Cortez.

The endorsement from the progressive star sent "the message that the movement is growing, that it's gaining influence, that it's gaining traction," said Sanders' campaign manager, Faiz Shakir.

He predicted that the newly announced support from Ocasio-Cortez and Rep. Ilhan Omar, D-Minn., would help Sanders generate significantly more support from young people and minorities going forward.

"Those are two people who I think have immense power to mobilize young people, and I promise you, you'll be seeing them in Iowa, but not only in Iowa but around the country, trying to get people engaged around the issues," Shakir said.

For now, at least, Sanders can use the help.



JOHN MINICHILLO/AP

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., left, Sen. Kamala Harris, D-Calif., and Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., right, greet each other on stage ahead of the Democratic presidential primary debate last Tuesday.

While he pledged during last week's presidential debate to move forward with a "vigorous" campaign, he's moving cautiously in the short term. The rally in Queens was his only scheduled appearance before he returns to Iowa late this week.

The week after, he'll join Rep. Rashida

Tlaib, D-Mich., for a tour of her congressional district. Tlaib hasn't announced whether she'll join Ocasio-Cortez and Omar in endorsing Sanders, but she is also part of the so-called "squad" of minority women on Capitol Hill who has been frequent targets of Trump's attacks.

Buttigieg removes Chicago attorney from fundraiser after backlash

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Pete Buttigieg is returning campaign contributions from a former Chicago city attorney who led a vigorous effort to block the release of a video depicting the shooting of Laquan McDonald, a black teenager whose death at the hands of police stirred months of protest and resulted in an officer's conviction.

The Democratic presidential candidate also removed Steve Patton as a co-sponsor of a fundraiser held in Chicago on Friday. The move came after The Associated Press reported on his involvement in the event, which provoked a fierce online backlash directed at Buttigieg.

"I believe very strongly that transparency and justice for Laquan McDonald is a lot more important than a campaign con-

tribution," Buttigieg said later during an interview with David Axelrod, a former adviser to President Barack Obama.

Until the uproar, Buttigieg's campaign had declined to comment on Patton's involvement. Patton led Chicago's law department under former Mayor Rahm Emanuel.

For months, Buttigieg has faced criticism over his handling of race as mayor of South Bend,

Ind., a city with a history of segregation where decades of simmering tension erupted this summer when a white police officer shot and killed an African-American man. Despite Buttigieg's promise to "do better," his handling of the fundraiser demonstrates his sometimes awkward efforts to improve his standing in the black community, which is a crucial segment of the Democratic electorate.

"He should adjust his schedule," the Rev. Jesse Jackson said when asked about the fundraiser last week and before Buttigieg's campaign decided to cut ties with Patton. The Chicago civil rights icon, whose guidance Buttigieg sought amid the unrest over the South Bend police shooting, said he has a high opinion of the White House hopeful but felt he "should be made aware" that Patton's participation would be a problem.

NATION

Wisconsin students protest racial slur firing

By TODD RICHMOND
Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — Students at a Wisconsin high school skipped class Friday and marched through the streets of the state capital to protest the firing of a black security guard who was terminated for repeating a racial slur while telling a student not to call him that word.

Scores of Madison West High School students walked out of class at about 10 a.m. to protest the firing. A WISC-TV livestream of the walkout showed what appeared to be scores of students marching through the streets. They walked to the Madison School District offices and marched laps around the building, chanting “Hey-heh, hey-ho, zero tolerance has got to go!” and “Do Better!”

Madison Police Department spokesman Joel DeSpain did not immediately respond to an email seeking an estimate on how many students took part.

Madison schools have a zero-tolerance policy on employees saying racial slurs.

Security guard Marlon Anderson, 48, said he was responding to a call Oct. 9 about a disruptive student at West. He said the student, who is black, called him obscenities, including the N-word. Anderson said he told the student multiple times not to call him that, repeating the slur during the confrontation.



Anderson

He was fired Wednesday. Anderson said he was just trying to defend himself and that context matters. The Madison teachers union has filed a grievance with the district on his behalf.

During his time at East and West high schools, Anderson said students have used that slur against him “many times” and that it has resulted in “restorative conversations” in which he explains the history, context and meaning of the word.

Last school year, at least seven Madison School District staff members resigned or were fired after using a racial slur in front of students.

West Principal Karen Boran said the zero-tolerance approach has been applied consistently.

The district school board president, Gloria Reyes, said in a statement Friday that

she wants the board to review its policy on racial slurs as soon as possible. She said she also has directed district staff to handle Anderson’s grievance quickly.

“This is an incredibly difficult situation, and we acknowledge the emotion, harm and complexity involved,” she said.

“Many people in our community and our district are grappling with that complexity, and we will continue to do so as we go forward.”

Superintendent Jane Belmore issued her own statement, saying the zero-tolerance policy is designed to protect students from harm, no matter what the circumstances or intent.

But she added that “different viewpoints” from the community are emerging, and the district will review the policy in light of Anderson’s grievance.

Share of Americans without a religious affiliation growing

By DAVID CRARY
Associated Press

The portion of Americans with no religious affiliation is rising significantly, in tandem with a sharp drop in the percentage that identifies as Christians, according to new data from the Pew Research Center.

Based on telephone surveys conducted in 2018 and 2019, Pew said Thursday that 65% of American adults now describe themselves as Christian, down from 77% in 2009. Meanwhile, the portion that describes their religious identity as atheist, agnostic or “nothing in particular” now stands at 26%, up from 17% in 2009.

Both Protestant and Roman Catholic ranks are losing population share, according to Pew. It said 43% of U.S. adults identify as Protestants, down from 51% in 2009, while 20% are Catholic, down from 23% in 2009.

Pew says all categories of the religiously unaffiliated population — often referred to as the “nones” — grew in magnitude. Self-described atheists now account for 4% of U.S. adults, up from 2% in 2009; agnostics account for 5%, up from 3% a de-

cade ago; and 17% of Americans now describe their religion as “nothing in particular,” up from 12% in 2009.

The report comes at a challenging time for many major denominations in the U.S. The two largest — the Catholic church and the Southern Baptist Convention — are beset by clergy sex-abuse scandals.

The United Methodist Church, the largest mainline Protestant denomination, faces a possible split over differences on the inclusion of LGBTQ people.

The Pew report found a steady decline in the rates of attendance at religious services.

Over the last decade, the share of Americans who say they attend religious services at least once or twice a month dropped by 7%, while the share who say they attend religious services less often — if at all — rose by the same degree.

In 2009, regular attenders — those who attend religious services at least once a month — outnumbered those who attend services only occasionally or not at all by a 52%-to-47% margin. Now, more Americans say they attend religious services a few

times a year or less (54%) than say they attend at least monthly (45%).

Pew’s data showed a wide age gap in terms of religion affiliation — three-quarters of baby boomers described themselves as Christian, compared to 49% of millennials.

The trends documented by Pew have been reflected in other recent developments.



DAVID GOLDMAN/AP

The sun sets on a Baptist church in Georgia in 2017. According to new data released Thursday by the Pew Research Center, the portion of Americans with no religious affiliation is rising significantly.

In May, the Southern Baptist Convention reported its 12th year of declining membership. The SBC said it had 14.8 million members in 2018, down about 192,000 from the previous year.

In June, the annual Giving USA report — a comprehensive overview of Americans’ charitable giving patterns — said giving to religious institutions had been lagging behind other philanthropic sectors for several years. Reasons included declining at-

tendance at worship services and a rising number of Americans not affiliated with any religion.

Empty Tomb, a Christian organization based in Champaign, Ill., that researches religious giving, says the decline is longstanding. According to its research, Americans gave about 3% of their disposable income to churches in 1968, and less than 2.2% in 2016.

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Opioid negotiations fail to produce settlement just before trial

Associated Press

Negotiations aimed at reaching a major settlement in the nation’s opioid litigation reached an impasse Friday.

Key differences were between state attorneys general and lawyers representing local governments, rather than with the drugmakers and distributors they are suing.

North Carolina Attorney General Josh Stein, who was one of the negotiators, said late Friday that local governments did not

accept a deal worth \$48 billion in cash, treatment drugs and services.

“We’re disappointed that the cities and counties refused to go along with that deal,” he said during a news conference in Cleveland after talks under the watch of a federal judge had ended for the day. “This would have helped the entire nation, not just a few counties, not just a few cities.”

Stein and three other attorneys general led the talks on behalf of the states. Paul Farrell, a lead lawyer for the local gov-

ernments, told The Associated Press that one hang-up was the states’ desire to be in charge of dividing the money.

Earlier in the day, another of the lead lawyers, Paul Hanly, told The Washington Post that the drugmakers Teva and Johnson & Johnson, as well as the distributors AmerisourceBergens, Cardinal Health and McKesson, were not willing to increase their offer.

Talks can continue, but opening statements are scheduled for Monday in the

first federal trial over the opioid epidemic, which has contributed to the deaths of 400,000 Americans over the past two decades.

That trial involves claims by two Ohio counties, but it’s considered a test case for similar lawsuits from governments across the country. The defendants in the case are Teva, the three major distributors, the smaller distributor Henry Schein and Walgreens. Johnson & Johnson previously settled with the two counties.

WORLD



AUGUSTO ZURITA/AP

Mexican troops arrive at a military base in Culiacan, Mexico, on Friday.

8 dead in Mexico after failed effort to capture Guzman's son

Associated Press

CULIACAN, Mexico — Mexican security forces aborted an attempt to capture a son of imprisoned drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman after finding themselves outgunned in a ferocious shootout with cartel henchmen that left at least eight people dead and more than 20 wounded, authorities said Friday.

The gunbattle Thursday paralyzed the capital of Mexico's Sinaloa state, Culiacan, and left the streets littered with burning vehicles. Residents took cover indoors as automatic gunfire raged outside.

It was the third bloody and terrifying shootout in less than a week between security forces and cartel henchmen, raising questions about whether President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador's policy of avoiding the use of force and focusing on social ills is working. Lopez Obrador defended the decision to back down, saying his predecessors' strategy "turned this country into a cemetery, and we don't want that anymore."

But Mike Vigil, a former chief of international operations for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration who worked undercover in Mexico, called the violence "a massive black eye to the Mexican government" and "a sign that the cartels are more powerful" than it is.

Streets in Culiacan, a city of over 800,000, remained blocked with torched cars Friday morning, schools were closed and some public offices asked

their employees to stay home. Few buses were running.

Teresa Mercado, who had just returned to her native Culiacan on Thursday, said: "This is worse than what I had lived through years ago."

Authorities said 35 troops arrived at a home Thursday afternoon to arrest Ovidio Guzman Lopez on a 2018 extradition request from the U.S. They entered the home, where Guzman and three others were inside.

Heavily armed men in greater force surrounded the house and also unleashed mayhem elsewhere, taking over toll booths and main roads into the city. Men carrying high-caliber weapons blocked major intersections. Amid the chaos, inmates at a prison rioted, seized weapons from guards and fled. Fifty-six prisoners escaped, and 49 were still at large Friday, according to Sinaloa Public Security Secretary Cristobal Castaneda. Two guards were taken captive and later freed.

The attacks were so brazen that Sinaloa cartel gunmen took several soldiers hostage and even attacked the housing complex where soldiers' wives and children live.

Defense Secretary Gen. Luis Crescencio Sandoval said, "They did approach the housing complex, they entered the housing complex and opened fire on the housing complex, and they abducted a civilian security guard ... and a soldier in civilian clothes who was returning from leave."

British lawmakers vote to postpone decision on Brexit

Associated Press

LONDON — In a major blow to British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, U.K. lawmakers voted Saturday to postpone a decision on whether to back his Brexit deal with the European Union, throwing a wrench into government plans to leave the bloc at the end of this month.

At a special session of Parliament intended to ratify the Brexit deal, lawmakers voted 322-306 to withhold their approval on the Brexit deal until legislation to implement it has been passed.

The vote aims to ensure that the U.K. can't crash out of the EU without a divorce deal on the scheduled Oct. 31 departure date. But it means Johnson has to ask the EU to delay Britain's departure, since Parliament previously passed a law compelling him to do that if a Brexit divorce deal had not been passed by Saturday.

The government still hopes it can pass the needed legislation by the end of the month so the U.K. can leave on time.

A defiant Johnson said after the vote that he was not "daunted or dismayed" by the result and would push ahead with plans to leave the EU.

As lawmakers debated, tens of thousands of anti-Brexit demonstrators descended on London to march to Parliament Square, demanding a new referendum on whether Britain should leave the EU or remain. Protesters, many wearing blue berets emblazoned with yellow stars symbolizing the EU flag, poured out of subway trains and buses for the last-ditch protest effort.

Bruce Nicole, a vicar from Camberley, southwest of London, said the Brexit deal would harm Britain. "I fervently believe that we should remain in the EU," he said. "I am British, but I am also European."

In Parliament before the vote, Johnson implored legislators to ratify the deal he struck last week with the bloc's 27 other leaders. He said members of the House of Commons should "come together as democrats to end this debilitating feud" over Brexit, which has bitterly divided the country since British voters narrowly chose in a 2016 vote to leave the EU.

"Now is the time for this great House of Commons to come together ... as I believe people at home are hoping and expecting," Johnson told lawmakers.

But he did not get the result he sought.

Trouble began when House of Commons Speaker John Bercow said he would first allow a vote on an amendment that puts the vote on the deal off until another day.

The amendment makes support for the deal conditional on the legislation to implement it being passed by Parliament, something that could take several days or weeks. It also gives lawmakers another chance to scrutinize — and possibly change — the Brexit departure terms while the legislation is passing through Parliament.

Johnson called any delay to Britain's Brexit departure date "pointless, expensive and deeply corrosive of public trust."

And he warned Saturday that the bloc's approval could not be guaranteed.

"There is very little appetite among our friends in the EU for this business to be protracted by one extra day," Johnson said. "They have had three and a half years of this debate."

French President Emmanuel Macron made the same point a day earlier in Brussels.

"I want us to finish this off and speak about the future," Macron said. "The Oct. 31 date must be respected. I don't believe new delays should be granted."

Marches and strikes rattle Catalonia

Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain — Masses of flag-waving demonstrators demanding Catalonia's independence and the release from prison of separatist leaders jammed downtown Barcelona on Friday as the northeastern Spanish region endured its fifth straight night of unrest.

Chaotic scenes of violence erupted after more than a half-million protesters, including families with children, marched in the Catalan capital, according to local police. Many were clad in pro-independence "estelada"

flags and shouted "Independence!" and "Freedom for political prisoners!"

Some of them had walked for three days in five massive "freedom marches" from towns across the northeastern Spanish region. They converged on Barcelona, a city of 1.6 million people, and joined students and workers who also took to the streets during a 24-hour general strike.

But at night, police resorted again to rubber bullets and, for the first time last week, to tear gas and water cannons to repel masked youths hurling cobble-

stones and flammable bottles, building barricades and setting dozens of bonfires with large garbage bins.

About 400 people, roughly half of them police officers, have been injured according to regional and central authorities, and 128 have been arrested since separatist sentiment surged last Monday, when the Supreme Court sentenced to lengthy prison terms nine separatist politicians and activists. The ninth had led a 2017 push for independence that triggered Spain's deepest political crisis in decades.



BERNAT ARMANGAU/AP

Municipality workers clean debris in Barcelona, Spain, on Saturday.

NATION

Milions march in Shiite's annual pilgrimage in Iraq

By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA
AND HADI MIZBAN
Associated Press

KARBALA, Iraq — Millions of pilgrims made their way on foot to the Iraqi city of Karbala on Saturday for the Shiite pilgrimage of Arbaeen, regarded as the largest annual public gathering in the world.

The commemoration marks the 40th day following the death of a Shiite saint in the 7th century and included more than 2 million Iranians and other Shiites from abroad. Militias patrolled roads leading into the city and escorted Iranian pilgrims from the border, hiking up security for processions that have previously been targeted by Sunni militant groups with bloody bombings.

This year's Arbaeen ceremonies take place amid widespread anger in Iraq's Shiite south over the government's heavy crackdown on protests that erupted earlier this month against unemployment, corruption and government mismanagement. The demonstrations raged across Iraq for seven days, and most prominent among the protesters were young Shiites, unleashing their frustration with the Shiite-led government in Baghdad.

The crackdown, which killed more than 100 and wounded thousands, put down the protests, but a new round of

demonstrations has been called for this Friday.

The political turmoil surfaced in the Arbaeen ceremonies. Followers of populist cleric Muqtada al-Sadr marched toward Karbala chanting, "No to America, no to Israel, no to corruption!" and "Baghdad is free. Corruption must go!"

In a message marking the day, Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi, 77, vowed to "confront with strength and determination all forms of corruption and achieve justice." The premier, who took office last year, has promised to address protesters' demands but has also told them there is no "magic solution" for Iraq along the way in tents lined with foam mattresses and fleece blankets.

Pilgrims streamed toward Karbala on foot from the cities of Najaf, 45 miles away, Baghdad, 55 miles to the north, and other places farther afield, resting along the way in tents lined with foam mattresses and fleece blankets.

The pilgrimage, known in Arabic as the Ziara, marks the anniversary of the 40th day of mourning following the 7th century death of the Prophet Muhammad's grandson, Hussein, at the hands of the Muslim Umayyad forces in the Battle of Karbala, during the tumultuous



HADI MIZBAN/AP

Shiite Muslim worshippers gather around the holy shrine of Imam Hussein, background, ahead of the Arbaeen festival in Karbala, Iraq, on Friday.

first century of Islam's history.

Hussein was seen by his followers as the rightful heir of the prophet's legacy. When he refused to pledge allegiance to the Umayyad caliphate, he was killed in the battle, cementing the schism between Sunni and Shiite Islam. Hussein's half-brother, Abbas, was also killed in the battle.

Sunnis outnumber Shiites by a wide margin among the world's estimated 1.5 billion Muslims, and Shiite rituals are far less known.

But Arbaeen — Arabic for the number 40 — draws far more pilgrims than the hajj in Saudi Arabia, a pilgrimage required once in a lifetime of every Muslim who can afford it and is physically able to make it.

The hajj is considered one of the five pillars of Islam and an obligation for all Muslims — Sunni and

Shiite. The Ziara is voluntary and holds little significance in Sunni tradition.

In recent years, the Iraqi government has said Karbala received 10 million to 20 million visitors during the event. Saudi authorities regulate the hajj tradition tightly, driving up costs for pilgrims and depriving it of some of the spontaneity seen in the Ziara. For many Muslims who cannot afford to go on the hajj or cannot get the Saudi visa, the Ziara is a satisfying alternative.

In neighboring Shiite-majority Iran, Arbaeen is a national holiday. Thousands in Tehran marched toward a nearby town south of the capital to mourn at the shrine of Shiite saint Abdul Azim.

Iran's Deputy Interior Minister Hossein Zolfaghari said more than 3.4 million Iranians traveled to Iraq, and 2 million of them have returned.

Sex ed may be outlawed in Poland

By MAREK STRZELECKI
Bloomberg

Teaching a teenager the benefits of condoms or letting them know it's OK to be gay might soon land you behind bars in Poland.

In their first move since winning a second term in Sunday's election, lawmakers from the nationalist Law & Justice party backed the draft law to establish jail terms for promoting "sexual activity" to minors. The legislation will go to a parliamentary committee for further work.

While critics say the law would put teachers at risk, backers insist

'Welcome to the Middle Ages. The party that just won the elections is now supporting a bill introducing five-year jail terms for sex education at schools.'

It's needed to counter the LGBTQ community's attempts to promote sex education and "deviancy and demoralization" among young people. Rights groups and youth activists protested in Warsaw and other cities to oppose the legislation. The bill follows Law & Justice's election campaign, in which it vowed to defend Poland from "foreign ideologies," including gay rights and gender education, and to return the country to its traditional Catholic roots.

"Welcome to the Middle Ages," said Marcin Zaborowski, a senior associate at the Visegrad Insight think tank. "The party that just won the elections is now supporting a bill introducing five-year jail terms for sex education at schools."

Repeatedly sued by the European Union for undermining democracy during its first term in power, Law & Justice tried to tighten what is already one of the bloc's most restrictive abortion laws. Nationwide protests forced the party to abandon, or at least postpone, such plans. The draft law drew condemnation from Amnesty International.

"In Poland, where access to abortion is only legal in limited circumstances, the importance of sexuality education is even more vital," said Draginja Nadazdin, the group's director for Poland. "This bill, which equates homosexuality with pedophilia, exposes the disturbing homophobia that underpins this law."

New fresco with gladiators discovered in Pompeii park

By GIADA ZAMPANO
Associated Press

ROME — Archeologists excavating what may have been an ancient Roman drinking den in the ruined city of Pompeii said Friday they have unearthed a well-preserved wall painting of gladiators in action, complete with realistically gory wounds.

The 3-foot-by-4.5-foot fresco is located in the Regio V site, in the northern section of Pompeii's archaeological park, in an area not currently accessible to visitors.

It was found on a wall beneath the stairwell of what was probably a tavern or wine shop.

"Very probably, the fresco decorated a place used by gladiators, perhaps a watering hole also frequented by prostitutes," said Massimo Osanna, director-general of the archaeological park.

"Of particular interest in this fresco is the extremely realistic representation of the wounds," said Osanna, adding that the out-

come of the fight is unknown. The losing gladiator is holding up his finger to "implore for mercy," he noted.

The gladiators' fresco is the latest finding in the Pompeii park, which has yielded dozens of impressive discoveries in the last two years. But the site in recent years has also received bad publicity due to decay and poor maintenance.

Italy's Culture Minister Dario Franceschini hailed the discovery on Friday, noting that "a few years ago, Pompeii was known around the world for its negative image. ... Today's story is one of redemption."

Pompeii was a flourishing city destroyed by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 A.D. Last October, the finding of a charcoal inscription suggested that the eruption happened in October 79 A.D. rather than August of the same year, as was previously believed.

Franceschini stressed that the fresco finding "really shows



ARCHEOLOGICAL PARK OF POMPEII/AP

A view of a well-preserved fresco depicting fighting gladiators in the ancient Roman city of Pompeii, Italy, was recently unearthed by archeologists.

that Pompeii is an inexhaustible source of research and knowledge for the archeologists of today and for the future."

As part of a multimillion-dollar project founded by the European

Union, Pompeii is currently undergoing its most extensive excavations since the 1950s, with archeologists removing tons of debris from long-buried areas of the city.



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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man finds animal blood flooding his basement

IA BAGLEY — Blood may be thicker than water, but it'll still flood your basement.

Nick Lestina found this out the hard way two weeks ago when he discovered 5 inches of blood, fat and other animal tissue flooding his family's basement in Bagley, which is about 45 miles northwest of Des Moines. He told the Des Moines Register that he hasn't been able to clean it up because it's still seeping in.

The waste is coming from a neighboring meat locker, where blood and tissue from slaughtered animals were washed down a drain. Officials said a clog or break in the pipe sent the waste into Lestina's basement through a floor drain.

Rare white alligators move into new home

FL ORLANDO — Gatorland built new homes for some of its most distinctive-looking residents, thus creating an exhibit for a rare albino gator and two even-more-rare leucistic gators.

Officials hope the White Gator Swamp will be the site of a baby gator boom.

"It's the largest breeding facility for white alligators anywhere in the world," said Mark McHugh, Gatorland's CEO.

The white gators were introduced to their new digs Oct. 4. Leucistic gator Trezors hesitated to enter the waters, while his brother, Peros Zombi, dove off the side of a ramp after raw-chicken. Albino alligator Pearl did a reptilian sort of strut before making a splash.

Police find 2 stolen personal watercraft

CT WATERBURY — Connecticut police think they have found two stolen personal watercraft and are asking residents to help identify the suspects.

Authorities said the 2017 Sea-Doo RXT 300, valued at around \$25,000, were stolen from a dock in Newtown where they had been locked and were later found in a garage in Waterbury.

Newtown police said they searched the undisclosed location during their investigation and found two watercraft like the models reported stolen.

The Republican American reported it is unclear how the vehicles made their way to Waterbury or how authorities were led to the location where they were found.

Woman stole from store with 2 kids in tow

CO DENVER — Denver police were looking for a woman they say stole money from a liquor store with two young children in tow.

Investigators said the woman, who has not been identified, entered the store near the Common-Ground Golf Course in southeast Denver and took "a large sum of money" after rummaging



Ted S. Warren/AP

Jumping for joy

A visitor watches as a spawning salmon jumps up a fish ladder during the fall spawning season at the Issaquah Fish Hatchery in Issaquah, Wash.

through shelves and the area under the register.

She was accompanied by a boy and a girl, who are about six years old. Police said the boy helped her search for cash behind the counter.

Man looks for Big Foot after finding footprint

NC CASAR — A North Carolina man said he planned to spend a night hunting for a fabled North American creature because he found a footprint that seemed to be larger than a human could make.

Electrician Joe Scarborough told WCNC-TV that he was working near Casar when he spotted what appeared to be a fresh footprint of about 13 to 14 inches long. He said, "I was looking at that real close and ... I said 'Somebody's got a big foot.'"

He said he planned to spend a night in the area with some game cameras to see what happens, because "why not?"

Police investigate string of mailbox explosions

MA SHIRLEY — Massachusetts police are investigating a series of explo-

THE CENSUS

2K

The approximate number of cards a Kentucky boy with cancer received for his 10th birthday. News outlets reported Carter Matthew Willett, who turned 10 on Thursday, has several weeks left of his current bout of chemotherapy. Carter was diagnosed last year with Ewing's sarcoma, a rare form of cancer.

A Facebook page following his story posted photos showing the family receiving dozens of letters and packages, with Carter posing with some mail carriers.

sions on private property that destroyed three mailboxes.

Andy Burns caught the suspects in a car pulling up and placing the explosive in the mailbox of his Shirley home on his security cameras. Once the car pulls away, the mailbox explodes.

Authorities said Burns' home was one of three houses targeted and they are investigating.

Another victim said she had an explosive placed under the hood of her vehicle that shattered her windshield.

Man charged after bayonet attack

ND WAHPETON — Police in Wahpeton are investigating after a man was attacked with a bayonet.

Police Chief Scott Thorsteinson said Byron Vann, 31, of Henryetta, Okla., was charged with at-

tempted murder.

KFGO-AM reported that Vann was arrested after he returned to the scene while officers were still there.

Thorsteinson said the victim, a 30-year-old Fargo man, underwent surgery at St. Francis Medical Center to repair "two significant neck wounds."

Closed wedding venue to pay back \$27,000

KY FRANKFORT — The Kentucky Attorney General's Office said the owner of a now-closed wedding venue must pay over \$27,000 in restitution to nine couples who had their weddings canceled or didn't receive promised services.

The attorney general's office sued last year to hold Gabriela Farm owner Nicole Thompson liable for the losses.

A statement from the attorney general's office said Thompson took payments from couples and then ceased communications with them. Attorney General Andy Beshear said the couples "were conned out of not only their money but their joyful wedding day memories."

Columbus statue was covered in red paint

RI PROVIDENCE — A statue of Christopher Columbus in Rhode Island was vandalized on the day named in his honor.

The statue in Providence was splashed from head to toe with red paint and a sign reading "Stop celebrating genocide" was leaned up against the pedestal. The word "genocide" was written in orange paint on the rear of the pedestal.

The statue has been the target of vandals on Columbus Day in the past.

Since 1992, Native American advocates have pressed states to change Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day over concerns that Columbus spurred centuries of genocide against indigenous populations in the Americas.

From wire reports

TELEVISION

Taking a bite out of binge watching

New streaming platforms such as Apple TV+ leading return to one-episode-per-week release schedule

MEREDITH BLAKE AND YVONNE VILLARREAL
Los Angeles Times

After years of buildup, Apple will make its long-awaited push into original programming with the Nov. 1 launch of its streaming service, Apple TV+. Easily its most anticipated series is “The Morning Show,” starring Jennifer Aniston and Reese Witherspoon as journalists caught in the maelstrom when the popular anchor of a morning news program, played by Steve Carell, is fired for sexual misconduct.

With its A-list cast, lavish production values, acclaimed creative team and timely, provocative subject matter, “The Morning Show” might have been created in a streaming TV lab — with one exception.

Viewers eager to consume the show will have to pace themselves: Apple TV+ will make three episodes of the series available immediately, but the remaining seven will be released weekly.

As the number of original series grows and four new streaming platforms prepare to enter the market, the scramble to stand out has led key players to lean away from releasing full seasons at once — a model introduced by Netflix — if not wholly abandoned it.

Having had roughly six years to figure out how to attract TV viewers trained to feast on content, none of the streaming services set to debut between now and next spring will be exclusively adopting the binge model, and veterans like Netflix, Amazon and Hulu have tried different release strategies themselves.

Which raises the question: Is this the end of the binge? Hardly. But while these new platforms have changed the face of television, they’re not ditching the traditional rule book entirely.

Disney+, launching Nov. 12, will release episodes weekly. Apple TV+ will take the same hybrid approach with “See” and “For All Mankind” as it will with “The Morning Show,” while “Dickinson” will be dropped en masse. HBO Max, expected in the spring, is also unlikely to adopt the “binge and burn” approach, according to a source with knowledge of the situation. Even Netflix is experimenting with releasing select reality titles and talk shows on a different schedule.

Appointment viewing might seem old-fashioned, but week-to-week anticipation and strong word of mouth helped propel the growth of recent shows like HBO’s “Succession” and “Chernobyl.” It turns out if you want a “watercooler” show, it helps to be in the room at the same time.

While new seasons of some streaming series — Netflix’s “Stranger Things” and “The Crown,” Amazon Prime’s “Fleabag” — feel like events that command the cultural conversation, the binge model means that even the buzz around breakout shows drops off quickly. The most recent season of “Stranger Things” netted 8.2 million Twitter mentions its first week of release in July; by its fifth, there was a drop in mentions of more than 90%. (The major streaming services release viewership numbers selectively, if at all.)

It’s also become harder to break through the noise in the first place: TV is booming, with nearly 500 original series in 2018 according to research by FX. This may be especially true of quirkier, under-the-radar shows dependent on word of mouth, such as the animated comedy “Tuca & Bertie,” which was abruptly canceled by Netflix in July — less than three months after its debut. It was one of the best reviewed shows of the year, but by the time many viewers were inspired to sample it, its fate had been sealed.

An evidence suggests that binged shows don’t linger as long in viewers’ minds. In a 2017 study, researchers at the University of Melbourne found that people who watched all six hour-long episodes of the Cold War drama “The Game” in a single sitting retained less information in the long run — and may have enjoyed the show less — than viewers who paced their consumption over weeks or days.

Shows that follow a more traditional week-to-week release can often benefit from the measured build of a season spanning months. The HBO limited series “Chernobyl” became an unlikely hit this spring, thanks largely to positive buzz that reached deafening levels over the course of its five-week run.

According to Twitter, mentions of the series grew tenfold between its May debut and

June finale. The show’s same-day ratings also grew by more than 50%, from 1.2 million to 1.9 million viewers on Monday nights. “Succession,” which ended its second season on Sunday, has also benefited from a more traditional release pattern (not to mention its outsize popularity with media professionals).

Even as it moves on from “Game of Thrones,” mourned by many as “the last show everyone watched together,” HBO plans to stick with the weekly rollout.

“Why would you give up the weekly episode release?” programming president Casey Bloys told The Times in August. “To have people united watching and talking about these shows. To give the audience numerous chances to connect.”

But shows released on a more traditional timeline also benefit from being available on demand and in bulk, so that when a friend — or TV critic — recommends a show, viewers can catch up easily. According to HBO, once delayed viewing was factored in, the average audience for each episode of “Chernobyl” rose to 12.9 million viewers, meaning the overwhelming majority of the show’s audience was watching on demand or through one of HBO’s streaming platforms.

A number of streaming players are testing multiple release strategies. CBS All Access, which programs series such as “Star Trek: Discovery,” mostly uses a weekly strategy, but it has applied the binge format selectively, dropping all episodes of the cop comedy “No Activity” and the upcoming true crime series “Interrogation” at once.

“It fits the nature of our consumer base and our history,” said Marc DeBevoise, president and COO of CBS Interactive. “It allows us to show our creators that we are extending our marketing plan, that we are supporting the shows past a few episodes. The binge is always there if the viewer wants to wait until the end.”

Hulu, a pioneer in the pace yourself approach — often releasing two or three episodes at launch, then one per week — has made binge-release exceptions for certain shows, such as its “Veronica Mars” reboot.

“We went from a world where consumers didn’t know anything but weekly to this new model where they could binge it all, and now we’re seeing this sort of the hybrid model,” said Ryan Crosby, Hulu’s vice president of content and brand marketing. “We’re not in a spot where we can force them to engage in a certain way.”

Netflix itself has deviated from the binge model with certain genres, beginning with talk shows like “Patriot Act With Hasan Minhaj” and David Letterman’s “My Next Guest Needs No Introduction.”

“Rhythm & Flow,” in which judges Cardi B, T.I. and Chance the Rapper search for the next great hip-hop star, will be released in multi-episode batches. It’s Netflix’s first attempt at a music competition show in the vein of “American Idol” or “The Voice” — a format that relies on building anticipation for the moment when the winner is revealed.

It will be enough to satisfy the binge-watcher while still protecting the identity of the winner” and build word of mouth, predicts executive producer Jeff Gaspin, who helped develop unscribed hits like “The Biggest Loser,” reruns of which often aired in cable-TV marathons, and the once-ubiquitous “Behind the Music.”

But dropping entire seasons at once also has potential drawbacks, Gaspin said. “If people don’t discover a show quickly, it could also go away rather quickly. If the algorithm doesn’t keep recycling it and it’s no longer one of the first shows you see when you turn on your service, it’s out of sight, out of mind.”

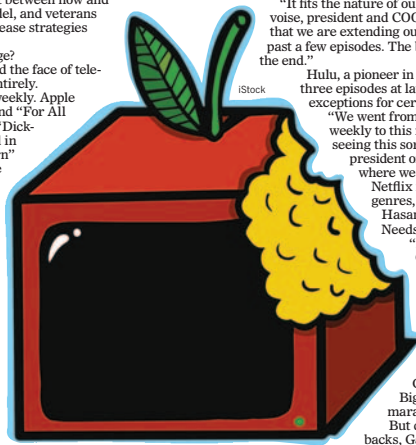
Of course, there’s no putting the genie — or, in this case, binge-trained viewers — back in the bottle. And for storytellers, knowing that many viewers will likely sit through more than one episode at a time has narrative benefits.

“There’s less time reminding people about what happened in the previous episode,” said Bruce Miller, showrunner of Hulu’s dystopian drama “The Handmaid’s Tale.” “We’re more committed to giving people their hour’s worth. We try to make episodes fully packed.”

Still, many showrunners have deep reverence for the slower, traditional week-to-week release, including Miller and Amy Sherman-Palladino and Dan Palladino, the showrunners of Amazon’s “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel.”

“I’m not into binge-viewing. I think the reason people are so in love with ‘Game of Thrones’ and shows like that is you are building a relationship with those shows,” Sherman-Palladino said. “It’s like, ‘Don’t call me, don’t want to know you during this hour or whatever that I’m watching my show.’”

Added Palladino: “Whatever the case, people now consume it the way they want. That’s here to stay.”



None of the streaming services set to debut between now and next spring will be exclusively adopting the binge model, and veterans like Netflix, Amazon and Hulu have tried different release strategies themselves. Which raises the question: Is this the end of the binge?

MUSIC REVIEWS

Chris Knight

Almost Daylight (Thirty Tigers)

In his first release in more than seven years, Kentucky-born country rocker Chris Knight has snarled out an album that's gruff, uncompromising and perfect for the times.

"Almost Daylight" rails against hardship, misfortune and phoniness, set against a musical backdrop that's built around Knight's charmingly marble-mouthed singing style and the jagged-edged electric guitar swagger of Dan Baird and Chris Clark.

Long known for his visual, earthy songwriting, Knight has matured from his days as a rebel in the tradition of John Prine and Steve Earle. But his music remains grounded in his deep Kentucky roots, so much so that he can plausibly rhyme "rich" with "catch," as he does on "Send It On Down."

Country great Lee Ann Womack lends background vocals to that one, and Prine himself chimes in on the raucous closer, "Mexican Home" — both signs of the respect Knight commands among Nashville song-writing royalty.

That's partly because Knight never seems inauthentic the way some more commercially successful country singers do. He just doesn't seem capable of being anyone but himself.

In his work, hope always bangs up against hard reality. Whether he's declaring his love for a woman with a "heartbreak smile" in "Crooked Mile" or complaining about media lies in "The Damn Truth," he's looking for salvation in all of it — and the search itself is often poignant.

"Sometimes hope sinks like a stone," he sings on "Go On." "Keep your head up, keep your head up, keep your head up and go on."

It's not exactly happy music. But it's the sort of striving that makes Knight, once again, an important voice for our times.

— Scott Stroud
Associated Press

Michael Sweet

Ten (Rat Pak)

It's called "Ten," but this goes to 11.

This album is among the best work Michael Sweet has ever done, and that's saying quite a bit given his nine previous solo albums and extensive discography with the trailblazing Christian heavy metal band Stryper.

It almost seems like the high-octave vocalist and guitar maniac is keeping '80s heavy metal alive all on his own, given his frenetic output and the consistent quality of each release.

His 10th solo album begins with a heavy dose of transplanted Stryper DNA on "Better Part of Me," which is built around the intro riff from 1986's "More Than A Man."

It's remarkable how well Sweet's voice has held up over nearly four decades, with scant rest between discs and tours.

A time-honored tradition of '80s metal is the power ballad, and no one does them better than Sweet. This time it's "Let It Be Love," a worthy successor to the MTV smash "Honesty" and 1990's "Lady."

Sweet also brings in a truckload of metal friends, including cameos from members of Whitesnake, L.A. Guns, Fozzy and Arch Enemy. "Son of Man," a duet with Todd La Torre of Queensrÿche, is everything a heavy metal song should be: fast-paced, drum-heavy and with unfathomably shredding guitar by Andy James. It sounds like what might be expected if Sweet sang with Motörhead while Yngwie Malmsteen played guitar.

It all adds up to: "Ten" is easily one of the best hard rock albums of 2019.

— Wayne Parry
Associated Press

Elbow

Giants of All Sizes (Polydor/Verve Music Group)

With all the talk about bleakness and the experiences of anger and loss affecting "Giants of All Sizes," you'd imagine Elbow's eighth studio album

arriving with an "Abandon hope, all ye who enter here" warning sticker.

But while there's plenty of heaviness and weariness, the Manchester band's empathy and flair for the hymn-like help alleviate the oppression.

Richly textured arrangements — the band renowned for playing live in the studio — and brilliant compositions, along with the resourceful use of singer/lyricist Guy Garvey's layered vocals, not to mention his endearing pronunciation and a redeeming finale, also lift some of the emotional load off the listener.

The ingredients of extended opener "Dexter & Sister" divide roughly into 60% ominous — mechanical grooves and neither faith, hope nor charity — and 40% dexterous, with a pret-rock colt, the album's best guitar riffs and outstanding vocals from Jesca Hoop.

The target of "Seven Veils" played the game too long, has been found out and definitively dismissed, while "Empires," which "crumble all the time," is very Brexit, with buzzing keyboards and a beautiful second section that's typically wordy, breathless and distressed and has an especially inspired bass line.

"White Noise White Heart" is a thumping reflection of pain and rage triggered by the 2017 Grenfell Tower fire in London, which killed 72 people, and by the apparent futility of the artist and his art in the face of such tragedy.

Still, the album ends with a trio of tunes that, in recalling what's important (for Garvey it's family, friends, the band and a new life), lay the foundations for better times ahead.

The exquisite "My Trouble" is a term of endearment elevated by a wondrous string section. "On Deronda Road" is an enduring memory, and "Weightless" touchingly traces the passing of time and generations from grandfather to father to son.

"Giants of All Sizes" is one of Elbow's best, a record of its time that dares envision a brighter future.

— Pablo Gorondi
Associated Press

North Mississippi Allstars

Up and Rolling (New West)

The blues is alive and kicking, and rock ain't dead either. Thank the North Mississippi Allstars for that reminder.

Luther and Cody Dickinson's latest album is a communal jam band amalgam that embraces a couple of creaky old musical genres and still sounds like 2019 because everyone involved seems to be having so much fun, and there's no expiration date on that.

"Up and Rolling" ranges from roadhouse blues ("Out on the Road") and festival rock ("Lonesome In My Home") to disco funk ("Bump That Music") and a socially conscious fist pumper ("Living Free"). The band connects Muddy Waters with Prince on the salacious grinder "Peaches," where a stepladder never sounded so sexy, and seeks forgiveness with a gospel swing on "Take My Hand, Precious Lord." More heavenly yet is the Mavis Staples-led tent revival stomper "What You Gonna Do?"

The Dickinson brothers spotlight a handful of guests, and even Jason Isbell has the blues. He and Duane Betts help turn Little Walter's "Mean Old World" into a 12-bar boogie with an Allmanesque coda straight from Fillmore East.

Electric guitars abound, and Cody is a marvel on drums, which is a big reason the music finds groove sure to make hips shake and toes tap. It's all as loose as a collar on a 90-degree day, and a good way to work up a sweat.

— Steven Wine
Associated Press

Big Thief

Two Hands (4AD)

How does the internal manifest itself in the physical? Is it rocking your body to ward off fear? Is it cutting off hair in a redirection of pain?

There's a pleading in the voice of Big Thief's Adrienne Lenker as she searches for the connection between body and soul. On the new album "Two Hands," it is this connection that is ultimately explored.

The Brooklyn-based indie folk-rock band is a well of inspiration. In the past three years, Big Thief has released four albums. "Two Hands" falls on the heels of "U.F.O.F.," a critically acclaimed album released only five months ago.

Though "Two Hands" follows close behind their last, it is distinct. These tracks are not simply leftovers from their last album but address entirely different themes and harness an entirely unique energy.

While "U.F.O.F." is more cryptic, concerning itself with the metaphysical, "Two Hands" is grounded in humanity's current existence.

In "Forgotten Eyes," Lenker sings of homelessness and addiction, relating humanity to a collective body. "Is it me who is more hollow as I'm quickly passing by? And the poison is killing them, but then so am I / As I turn away," she sings emotionally, sometimes as her voice cracks.

"Shoulders" is desperate and impassioned as Lenker implores a body in the chorus, "Please wake up," yet recognizes her own capacity for destruction: "And the blood of the man/Who's killing our mother with his hands/Is in me, it's in me, in my veins."

The elements that have drawn in audiences are still there, from the band's raw, stripped down style to the ability of Lenker to transform her vocals, going from gravely to ethereal all the while maintaining a sense of vulnerability.

Releasing two albums in a year might seem excessive, but thankfully Lenker and her bandmates won't waste your time. "Two Hands" is a true good and proves that Big Thief still have much to say.

— Ragan Clark
Associated Press

Fantasia

Sketchbook (Rock Soul/BMG)

If you haven't heard Fantasia's latest singles, there's an easy summary: one's spiritual, another's about sex, and both are worth a listen.

The singer draws from very different worlds on her latest album, "Sketchbook" — crediting a higher power for her heavenly vocals on the upbeat "Holy Ghost," then confessing the pleasure and peril of a good romp in the hay on the seductive T-Pain-assisted "PTSD" (short for "Post-Traumatic Sex Disorder").

Neither area is foreign territory to Fantasia, whose powerhouse vocals earned her the title of "American Idol" back in 2004. Since then, the R&B world has seen tons of shift, with newcomers who seem more focused on creating "a vibe" and less concerned with (or capable of) the dramatic belting out that Fantasia's known for.

And while Fantasia has injected some youthfulness into her production, the Grammy winner is staying true to her artistry on "Sketchbook," her first independent release. She delivers the fullness of her voice on the sexy, guitar-laced "Believer" and the easygoing "Enough," pours her honeyed vocals over the island-influenced beat of "Take Off," and experiments with a rock feel on "Warning."

Fantasia's gospel roots remain strong, of course, and fans will be delighted with "Looking for You," which features the singer's mom, Mama Diane. "Sketchbook" was originally supposed to include a collaboration with fellow R&B stars Brandy and Jazmine Sullivan, though Fantasia explained that it didn't happen because of "politics." The song would have been welcomed, but thankfully Fantasia makes "Sketchbook" a work of art, all her own.

— Melanie J. Sims
Associated Press



MUSIC



SMOOTH OPERATOR

Ari Lennox turned 2016 meeting with J. Cole into critically acclaimed debut album, 'Shea Butter Baby'

CHRISTOPHER SMITH, INVISION/AP

Ari Lennox poses for a portrait in New York to promote "Shea Butter Baby," her full-length debut released in May. Within months of a 2016 meeting with rapper J. Cole, Lennox became the first lady of Cole's label, Dreamville Records.

BY MESFIN FEKADU
Associated Press

Ari Lennox was drunk on a plane as she headed to meet J. Cole for the first time in 2016 to work on music the rapper had been putting together for Rihanna.

"I still had baby vodkas left from the plane," Lennox recalls. "Definitely just throwing them back. It was scary."

Cole had been listening to Lennox's music on SoundCloud for some time — slowly becoming a fan of her soulful sound — and Ibrahim "Ib" Hamad, the rap star's long-time manager and president of his label, Dreamville Records — thought it would be a good idea to bring Lennox along for the Rih Rh sessions.

"Even though (Cole) was very sweet and comforting and it was a genuine vibe, it was still scary. I was in a whole other world, basically by myself," Lennox said. But the Washington, D.C., native was determined to get signed. They began working on a song called "Facetime."

"There's an energy on 'Facetime,' like, I want to show him I can write something really fast and it's going to be great. It's going to be so good," Lennox said.

Months later, Lennox became the first lady of Dreamville, also home to J.I.D., Bas, Cozz, EarthGang, Lute and Omen, who originally put Cole and Ib onto Lennox's music.

"Just seeing her in that room, it wasn't like she was star-struck or anything, she was just being herself, being kind of shy; she knew she had to get work in a sense," Ib recalled. "That was something that, for me,

was enough to see that she did get along with the team. (I thought), 'We should make a run at trying to sign her' because I got to see with my own eyes her going at work and how simple it was for her to come up with the melodies and just write on the spot."

Three years later, "Facetime" — produced by Cole — is one of the 12 songs that make up "Shea Butter Baby," Lennox's critically acclaimed full-length debut, which was released in May. She's been hard at work on the buttery, smooth album since 2016, crafting songs about love, men, growing up and more with sharp vocals that range from Erykah Badu to jazz greats over soulful hip-hop beats.

Lennox came up with the Cole-featured title track while she was "putting shea butter in my hair and ruining my friend's couch."

"Because everybody knows how messy shea butter is," she said, laughing.

The in-your-face "BMO," which samples Galt MacDermot's "Space" — famously sampled by Busta Rhymes for his 1996 debut single "Woo Hah!! Got You All in Check" — also came to Lennox effortlessly.

"The way (the producer) flipped the beat to me gave me Missy Elliott (vibes)," she said. "I was hearing Missy. I was hearing Total. I was hearing Aaliyah."

The song's video elicited a response from Elliott — who tweeted that she rocks out to Lennox's music. Bruno Mars blessed the video with a simple one-character tweet: the fire emoji.

"I've always wanted to find the right singer that could not only excite me and make me become a fan, but also could represent what we stand for as a brand and as a label," Ib said. "I think Ari she has something so soulful about her that reminds you of the music we came up on, but she has a certain edginess and the writing style of today that I think connects to the kids and the young women of today, and the young men of today."

Lennox counts singers like Whitney Houston, Toni Braxton, Lauryn Hill, Badu and Brandy as influences, and said when she was just three years old her grandmother told her she had "the voice of an angel."

"My other grandma said that I would write songs under her porch in North Carolina," Lennox said. "I remember watching 'Apollo' with my other grandma — I have so many grandmas — and seeing these young girls sing ... I knew in that moment that I wanted to sing."

At 18, she pursued music seriously. She won a few competitions on the popular BET music video countdown show "106 & Park," and auditioned for "American Idol."

"None of that ever worked out," she said.

She even auditioned for Diddy's band, which was documented on MTV in 2009 as "Making His Band."

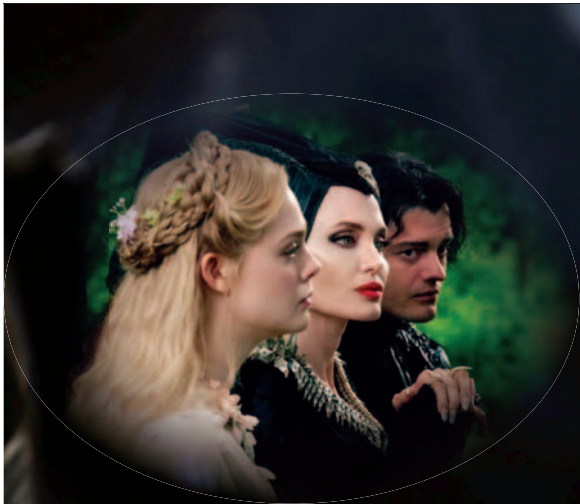
"And I remember they liked me a lot, they knew I stood out, but they just knew I wasn't ready. I appreciate that so much because I feel like all of those no's made room for the most beautiful yes — that was Dreamville," she said.

Along with "Shea Butter Baby," Lennox can also be heard on the Dreamville compilation album "Revenge of the Dreamers III," which debuted at No. 1 on Billboard's 200 albums chart in July and features the multiplatinum Cole hit "Middle Child."

Lennox is on tour with another breakout star, Lizzo, and said she's grown tremendously in the three years since she flew out to see Cole for the first time.

"I feel like I've really made them proud. I know it may come off cheesy, but if somebody's going to invest hundreds of thousands of dollars, even more, into you, you want to make sure you can return that; you want to make sure they feel good about their investment," she said. "Now I do feel OK being the first lady (of Dreamville) because I've shown them I can keep up. I can keep up with Cole."

MOVIES



RELATABLE ROLE

Maleficent doubts her fitness as a mother. So did Angelina Jolie



By CHRISTI CARRAS
Los Angeles Times

Maleficent is many things Angelina Jolie is not: a flame-throwing fairy, an orphaned outcast, a winged warrior. But the “Maleficent: Mistress of Evil” star can relate to her title character on some level, especially when it comes to motherhood.

“Where she fails is that she doesn’t believe in herself,” Jolie told reporters at the Disney sequel’s Hollywood premiere at El Capitan Theatre on Sept. 30. “She doesn’t believe that she’s a good mom. She doesn’t see herself as a mom. But I think I questioned, when I was first a mother, whether I was good enough. And I think that a lot of good moms question whether or not they’re good enough. And I think that there’s nothing wrong with that.”

It may come as a surprise that Jolie, a mother of six — and who also brought to life “Maleficent: Mistress of Evil” as a producer — ever doubted her nurturing capabilities.

But in the franchise’s latest installment, Maleficent faces similar anxieties, afraid she might lose her newly engaged goddaughter Aurora (Elle Fanning) to heart-break and nefarious forces. The tale is a complex portrait of a woman — actually, three women, when you include Fanning and Michelle Pfeiffer.

“There are many different types of strength represented for women in this film,” Jolie said. “It’s not just the strength of a fighter. It’s the strength of a tactician in Michelle, and a leader. It’s the strength of a mother and wife — mother-to-be and wife — in someone like Elle, who

‘... I think I questioned, when I was first a mother, whether I was good enough. And I think that a lot of good moms question whether or not they’re good enough. And I think that there’s nothing wrong with that.’

Angelina Jolie

is soft, and her strength is in her heart and her softness ... all of these things are different aspects of women. We’re very complicated.”

Further complicated is the rocky relationship between the witch and the princess, which has seen significant change in the years since the first film hit theaters in 2014. But behind the scenes, Fanning revealed she and her on-screen fairy godmother have only grown closer.

“I was 14 when I did the first movie, so you can’t really talk about the same things that we can talk about now, and our bond has ... gotten so strong, and the advice that I feel she’s given me, and what I’ve learned from her,” the 21-year-old actress told *The Times*. “I really do truly, genuinely feel that love between us and that I could reach out to her at any moment.”

Just added to the mix of female powerhouses was Pfeiffer as Queen Ingrith, who faces off against Jolie’s horned sorceress in a struggle to claim parenthood of Aurora. Pfeiffer, who hadn’t met Jolie prior to filming despise both being industry veterans, “relished” the opportunity to join the franchise’s on-set sisterhood.

“When we did the end battle, we were stuck up on this tower for a long, long time,” she told *The Times*. “It was nice because it was just Angelina and Elle and I, and so ... I got to know them both more, and [we] just hung out.”

Jolie also made sure to credit the men of “Maleficent,” such as director Joachim Ronning, co-writers Micah Fitzerman-

Blue and Noah Harpster, and actor Chiwetel Ejiofor, with allowing their female colleagues’ strengths to flourish. The feeling was mutual for Ejiofor, who plays a new character, a dark fairy named Connall.

“[Jolie] just brings such a complete, just everything to it — this real, all-encompassing energy and real knowledge of what she wants to do,” he told *The Times*.

“Her projects really do represent her worldview ... I admire her so hugely as an actress but also as a force in the world.” A force, indeed: A running theme ahead of the screening was Jolie’s immense influence on the film, which seemed to reach as far as Maleficent’s enveloping wingspan — from its fantastical costumes to its girl-powered soundtrack.

“She’s pushing everyone around her to be the absolute best,” Ronning told *The Times*. “It was in every part of the process ... spending months with the screenwriters, getting it right. The angle of her horns, of course, the wardrobe, the color of her lips — hours and hours of relentless hard work.”

Come the next “Maleficent,” Ronning may be out of a job, as Jolie told reporters her next ambition is directing, and she’s already begun to think like a visionary. Like any committed mother — or producer — Jolie always had the final say. And all agreed the story was better for it.

“We’d write her some line of dialogue that we thought would really kill, and she would say, ‘You know what? I think I’ll do that with a look,’” Fitzerman-Blue said. “And she can.”

“Maleficent: Mistress of Evil,” starring, from top left: Elle Fanning, Angelina Jolie and Sam Riley, picks up several years after “Maleficent” and explores complex family ties.

DISNEY/AP, top, and GRANT POLLARD, INVISION/AP, above

CROSSWORD AND COMICS

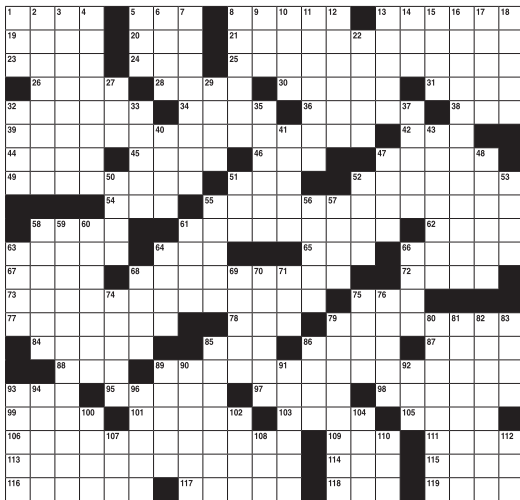
NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERINGS

BY HOWARD BARKIN AND VICTOR BAROCCAS / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Howard Barkin is a software-quality-assurance specialist — and an ace crossword solver — from Hillsborough, N.J. He won the American Crossword Puzzle Tournament in 2016 and is a perennial top-10 finisher. Victor Barocas, who also competes, is a professor of biomedical engineering at the University of Minnesota. The men became acquainted through the tournament when their last names appeared alphabetically adjacent in the results. The idea for this puzzle was Howard's. They worked back and forth by email to make it. — W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 What helicopter rotors do
5 "___ to Psyche?"
8 Bartok and Lugosi
13 Seven Sisters school that went coed in 1969
19 Famous feature of the Florence Cathedral
20 Romulus, exempli gratia
21 It goes up with alcohol consumption
23 Cereal mascot since 1933
24 N.Y.C.-based dance troupe
25 † Memoirist
26 Psalm 63 opening
28 Unable to choose
30 Blood drive worker
31 On the way
32 Many
34 Tactless
36 Marsh flora
38 Rapper Lil ____ X
39 † Journalist and author
42 Maui setting: Abbr.
44 Downwind
45 Mimic
46 Quarry, e.g.
47 Raise one's spirits
49 Weighed on
51 Gangster's gun
52 Large print source
- DOWN**
- 14 Org. for the Demon Deacons and Blue Devils
15 Sci-fi author
16 Observance on Yom Kippur or during Ramadan
17 H.S. class for future engineers, say
18 Spoke with a forked tongue
19 Guides of a sort
20 "From where I sit," briefly
21 Increases
22 Word appearing on only one current U.S. coin (the nickel)
23 Bit
24 Yonder
25 Medium on display at Brickwood
26 † Famed rights advocate
27 Agency that supports entrepreneurs
28 Many a middle schooler
29 Sounds during a step test
30 1976 hit whose title is sung just before the line "Take it easy"
31 Buenos ____
32 Sic's sib
33 Bond's rating
34 Took by threat
35 Actor on the list of the 100 most important people of the 20th century
36 † Noted politician and orator
37 "Honor"-able org.
- 95 Gush
96 Largest cell in the human body
97 Got by
98 Years's homeland
101 Brings up
103 Award for Best Moment, e.g.
105 The "I" of 10-1, say
106 † American composer and lyricist
109 Canyon maker
111 Kissers
113 "I can't understand this at all"
114 Half of a blackjack
115 Hideout
116 Star of the "Taken" film series
118 "Eric Canal" mule
119 Certain IDs
- 1 MS. units
2 Site of the first Ironman race (1978)
3 Words accompanying "Uh-oh!"
4 Moved, as in a greenhouse
5 ____ pro nobis
6 Factor affecting a bond's rating
7 Took by threat
8 Actor on the list of the 100 most important people of the 20th century
9 California's ____ River
- 10 Reclined
11 Hex'd
12 Playing on both sides
13 "I ____" (sticker message)
14 "I'll take that as ____"
15 Parts of a portfolio: Abbr.
16 Iconic environmental book
17 Maker of the classic Radrange
18 Concludes one's case
22 "Ghosts" playwright
27 Forest mother
29 River through Dortmund
32 Model of vengeful obsession
33 Part of a Swiss bank account
35 One good at reading emotions
37 Boating hazard
40 Something a house might be built on
41 Epigrammatic
43 Brand in the dessert aisle
47 Clue collectors, for short
48 Grow a fondness for
50 Grub
51 Assoc.
52 Includes, surreptitiously
53 Melts
55 Left on board
56 High percentage of criminals?
57 No longer green, say
58 Popular sans-serif typeface
- 59 Truism based on a line by Gertrude Stein
60 Major source of coffee beans
61 Mass-produced response?
63 Inspiration for a horror movie?
64 Nobelist Pavlov
66 Hammer feature
68 U.K. honours
69 Choreographer Twyla
70 Trio often heard in December
- 71 Northern borders?
74 Can't do without
75 Runners support it
76 Place of security
79 What causes a will-o'-the-wisp
80 Ann and Andy, notably
81 The King of Latin Pop
82 Popular sports news website
83 ExxonMobil abroad
85 Promise
- 86 Heavy responsibility
89 Comment following an unrepentant admission
90 Symbolic socioeconomic divider
91 Less bumpy
92 Suffix with sex or text
93 Get the show on the road
94 Número de Maravillas del Mundo Antiguo
96 Get one's hair just right
100 Bits of work
102 Something a cobbler may hold
104 "It's fun to stay at the ____" (1978 hit lyric)
107 Miracle-____
108 Org. for docs
110 Bit of animation
112 About one-quarter of a high school: Abbr.

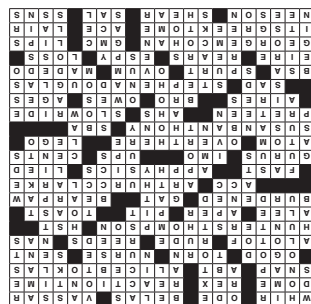


GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and visit gunstonstreet.com.

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GADGETS



IGDB/TNS

Even though it's been around for a decade, Minecraft is making a comeback.

Digging into an old favorite

Sandbox builder Minecraft seeing a spike in popularity

By TEDDY AMENABAR
The Washington Post

Minecraft is more than a decade old, but it's doing something you don't often see with video games: It's making a comeback in popularity.

Over the summer, Minecraft spiked on Twitch, according to a third-party analytics site. Channels streaming the game were bringing in four times the audience compared to just a few months before. Creators on YouTube are riding the same wave, telling The Washington Post that they've noticed an upswing in the views to their Minecraft-related videos.

There has been a steady drumbeat of attention for the sandbox builder. Mojang, the company behind the game, released two major updates in the past year or so. It's also working on two new offshoots of the original game. One is an augmented-reality experience for your phone (think Pokémon Go) and the other, Minecraft Dungeons, is an RPG similar to Diablo.

Swedish YouTube creator PewDiePie returned to Minecraft in June, bringing with him one of the largest audiences on the platform. He has already posted more than 100 Minecraft-themed videos. Some of the biggest Fortnite streamers are even swinging their pickax. Depending on how you play, some streamers have said Minecraft can be a welcome respite from the grinding gameplay of battles royal.

"Everyone has kind of been starved when it comes to creativity, and Minecraft allows them to sort of express that," professional Fortnite streamer Ali "Myth" Kabbani recently told The Post. "It's a nice break from the usual."

If you're looking to return to mining or maybe create a new world for the first time, The Post talked with two YouTube creators — Preston Arsenment of PrestonPlayz and Tyler Pappas of logdotzip — and asked for their advice.

Pick an edition — Bedrock or Java. First, there are two slightly different versions of the main game — Bedrock and Java.

Java is the original version. It remains a hub for hobbyists who want to modify the game in their own custom servers. Minecraft, at its core, is an incredibly flexible game. People have created servers to play versions of Pokémon. There are countless libraries online for Minecraft enthusiasts to play and alter older versions of the game.

Bedrock is the multiplatform edition of Mine-

craft, which allows players to mine with friends on other devices — phones, consoles, etc. In Bedrock, rather than adding lines of code to modify the game, there's a setup marketplace for the community.

"The marketplace is basically this thriving ecosystem that takes the best of user-generated content and lets the player base purchase it," Pappas said.

Bedrock is probably the future of the franchise with its cross-platform capabilities, while Java is the tried-and-true edition for some hardcore fans.

Find your village people: If you're starting a new survival world in Minecraft, Pappas' recommendation is to get to the nearest village.

Villages will provide a roof over your head and an empty bed for those dark early days. You can live off their crops and use the towns as a home base, at least until you build a house of your own.

Once you're on your own two feet, Pappas said you should make use of the utility blocks around town — even "borrow" a few to place in your future home. Grindstones, smokers, stone cutters and other utility blocks are all available for players to forge new items or craft more efficiently.

One update from Mojang has expanded on how and what you can trade with villagers. If you make the most of it, trading can become a simple way to get your hands on rare items, Pappas said. Protect the villagers from the aptly named "pillagers," a new spawn in the game that will attack in coordinated raids, and you'll get better deals in trades with the townspeople.

Go for a swim, play with animals: You could always swim in Minecraft, but a year ago Mojang provided a reason to explore the ocean depths with an Aquatic update. There are sunken ships, treasure maps, tridents and, yes, underwater zombies. You can build your next humble abode underwater, Pappas said.

While you're down there, swim with the dolphins or the puffer fish. Speaking of both, Minecraft now has more than your typical farm animals in the game — with bees, pandas, turtles and foxes that huddle into their own tail for a quick nap.

"Minecraft is a very relaxing game," Pappas said. "It's got lovely piano music in the background. Fun cute animals to look at. There's no impetus to kill everyone and get first place, and I think that resonates with a lot of people," Pappas said, referring to Fortnite and other battle royal games.

GADGET WATCH

Ring in seasonal spirit

By GREGG ELLMAN
Tribune News Service

They're creepy and they're kooky and now the first family of Halloween, the Addams Family, is at your doorstep. Well, sort of. If you have a Ring Video Doorbell, you can download and install the iconic theme song/ring-chime to play when your Ring doorbell is pressed to activate.

I have several Ring devices already in use, so in my Ring app, I chose my video doorbell and then went to device settings, alert settings and then to app alert tones, which gave me the Addams Family choice along with others including bats, creepy laugh and many others.

The free Addams Family tones will be available through November. A special edition Ring Halloween interchangeable faceplate for Ring Video Doorbell 2 is on sale for \$15.

Online: ring.com

The new Airtime Pro truly wireless ergonomic stem earbuds from IFROGZ are an affordable, effective gadget.

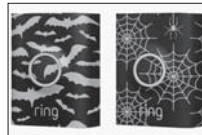
The earbuds are loaded with great features, but what's most important is the sound, which is right on. Highs, lows and the right amount of bass are there, broadcasting from 5 mm drivers. I place a high priority on comfort and clear sound, which I get from the Airtime Pro.

With the stem feature, the extended hardware hangs down a bit (similar to Apple AirPods) which makes them a little more secure and comfortable.

Controls are built into the earbuds and are accessed with simple taps to play or pause music, control volume, select tracks, answer crystal-clear hands-free calls with the integrated mics on each earbud; three taps will get you in touch with Google Assistant.

They feature USB-C charging with 20 total hours of battery life with the included charging/storage case. They are IPX-4 sweat resistant making them great for yard work, biking or workouts; Bluetooth 5.0 and automatic pairing mode are done right from the case after the initial pairing.

With IFrogz's Earbud Tips for Life Limited lifetime warranty, if your earbud tips (not the speak-



RING/TNS

A special edition Ring Halloween interchangeable faceplate for Ring Video Doorbell 2 is currently available for \$15.

ers) get worn or damaged, they will replace them. The actual earbuds come with a one-year warranty to cover defective materials and workmanship and IFROGZ will replace or exchange them at no charge.

Online: zaggs.com; \$69.99, available in black, blue or white

Trek Bicycle has announced its most advanced family of electric e-Bikes with the launch of the Allant+.

It's touted as the perfect e-Bike for commuting in a healthier and more environmentally friendly option or just everyday riding.

Allant+ is available in both OCLV Carbon and Alpha Aluminum frame options and features Bosch Performance Line CX for speeds up to 20 mph or Performance Line Speed motors for up to 28 mph.

Also, they include Trek's exclusive removable Integrated battery system, which fully encases the long-range 500Wh or 625Wh Bosch battery within the frame for sleek looks and tool-free, drive-side battery access.

The e-Bikes have a SmartPhoneHub controller to transform a rider's smartphone into their onboard computer. Once riders download Bosch's COBI bike app they can charge up, make or take calls, listen to music, get turn-by-turn directions, and more, all from the ease of the handlebar. The SmartPhoneHub will also display critical ride info even when a phone isn't attached.

Among the many other features of smart integrated accessories are fenders, a rear rack and automatic lighting systems powered by the Bosch battery. Pricing ranges from \$3,599.99 to \$5,999.99.

Online: trekbikes.com



TREK/TNS

Trek's Allant+

STARS AND STRIPES

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OPINION

Nations long have tried to shape US elections

By BEN FREEMAN
Special to The Washington Post

The indictment of Lev Parnas, Igor Fruman, David Correia and Andrey Kukushkin for allegedly breaking campaign finance laws — including running a scheme to funnel foreign money into American elections — was extraordinary, given the accused's ties to the president's lawyer Rudy Giuliani and to President Donald Trump himself. But in another sense, their actions weren't at all novel: They were merely the latest exploitation of a political system that has always been susceptible to foreign interference.

Though America was birthed by breaking free from a foreign power, historically it's done little to prevent outside meddling in its democracy. In fact, the United States went more than 150 years before passing meaningful legislation to regulate foreign influence in its domestic politics. Even then, it happened only because of the influence-seeking actions of one of the most reprehensible men in history: Adolf Hitler.

In the 1930s, the Nazis launched a propaganda effort in America, "a classic disinformation campaign full of the 'fake news' and other distortions a new generation of Americans would again encounter in the 2016 presidential election," according to historian Bradley Hart. Hitler's propagandists labeled President Franklin Roosevelt a warmonger, discredited newspapers that backed the Allies and secretly supported Nazi sympathizers, with the aim of keeping America on the sidelines of World War II. The campaign failed and ultimately led to the passage of the Foreign Agents Registration Act in 1938.

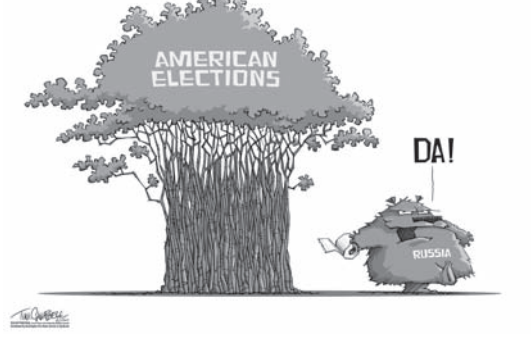
At first, FARA was narrowly defined, requiring those spreading propaganda on behalf of a foreign power to register their activities with the government and disclose their clients, activities and contacts. Even after 80 years and multiple amendments, it remains purely a disclosure statute.

Critically, the act prohibited the dissemination of propaganda. When the intelligence community concluded that a Russian television network, RT, was "the Kremlin's principal international propaganda outlet" and part of Moscow's effort to interfere in the 2016 election, it wasn't barred from the airwaves. It was required to register under FARA.

The original FARA statute did not prohibit foreign powers from pouring money into the American political system, a loophole that lobbyists exploited in their work to secure sugar quotas on behalf of foreign governments in the 1960s. At that time, U.S. sugar imports were regulated by a system that granted certain countries the opportunity to provide a specific amount of the commodity to the United States.

With U.S.-Cuba relations under increasing strain, President Dwight Eisenhower cut off sugar imports from the nation, which had been one of the largest exporters, and other Caribbean sugar producers spent lavishly on lobbyists to gain Cuba's quota. Congressional hearings chaired by Sen. William Fulbright revealed that foreign governments had used these lobbyists to make campaign contributions to key U.S. officials. The effort eventually spurred amendments that, in 1966, explicitly barred agents from making campaign contributions on behalf of foreign powers. For the first time, America had a law to prevent foreign money from entering its politics.

But critical opening remained: Foreign nationals could still directly contribute to political campaigns. Richard Nixon's 1972 reelection campaign took full advantage, receiving large foreign donations (including \$100,000 in cash from a Mexican businessman) that were exposed during the Watergate hearings. The subsequent outcry led to further amendments to the



Federal Election Campaign Act that would prohibit foreign citizens from "directly or indirectly" contributing money "or other thing of value" in connection with any election.

This explicit prohibition did not end foreign influence, of course. In 1997, The Washington Post reported that a Justice Department investigation found evidence that China had sought to funnel money into the 1996 election, using the Chinese Embassy in Washington to orchestrate contributions to the Democratic National Committee and others. This led the Federal Election Commission to fine the DNC, the Clinton-Gore campaign and nearly two dozen other entities for their involvement.

Despite these amendments, FARA still leaves plenty of room for paid agents of foreign powers to direct money into election coffers. These agents sometimes make campaign contributions to members of Congress on the same day they meet with them to discuss their clients. This is perfectly legal, since FARA filings, where agents report these interactions, state that any contributions are "from your own funds and on your own behalf."

The Supreme Court's decision in Citizens United opened the floodgates for foreign money to flow into U.S. elections by making it immensely easier to hide the true source of contributions. Before that 2010 ruling, campaign donations could be traced to individuals, whose nationality was easily determined. After Citizens United, corporations and unions could contribute directly to federal campaigns.

Sometimes, it's relatively easy to see if a corporation is foreign-owned. In 2016, for example, the Intercept used public records to report that a Chinese-owned corporation made \$1.3 million in contributions to a PAC connected to Jeb Bush's presidential campaign. Other times, though, parties make contributions through shell corporations whose ownership is deliberately hidden: Parnas, Fruman, Correia and Kukushkin allegedly created a company called Global Energy Producers (which "had no existing business," according to the indictment) for this purpose.

Citizens United also created another avenue for foreign money to pervade domestic politics: American subsidiaries of foreign corporations. U.S. citizens who work for foreign firms were already permitted to make donations, and a foreign business's U.S. subsidiary could form a political action committee, but that PAC could draw only from the contributions of U.S. workers.

Citizens United allowed subsidiaries to use money from their own treasuries in at least three new ways: for "independent

expenditures" (ads that explicitly call for expending or opposing a candidate), "electioneering communications" (ads that mention candidates without urging support or opposition) and donations to super PACs. Often, though, it's difficult to determine whether the treasury funds used for these activities stem from U.S. or foreign revenue. Subsidiaries' PACs have already donated \$7 million in the 2020 election cycle, according to the Center for Responsive Politics. Top contributors include household names like UBS, Toyota and T-Mobile, which, like most foreign-connected PACs, give disproportionately to Republican candidates.

Nonprofits offer still another means of influencing American politics. Last year, the National Rifle Association faced questions after accepting donations from NRA members in Russia and elsewhere while engaging in political work. (The NRA wrote in a letter to Congress that these contributions had "no influence on the content or targeting of our legislative or political communications.") With nonprofits too, it's challenging, if not impossible, to disaggregate funding that they may have used for political activities.

Just as campaign finance law is increasingly porous, with many openings for foreign money to influence politics, FARA, a statute from a time when most Americans didn't even own TVs, is ill-equipped to stop the spread of propaganda online. The Internet allows foreign governments to disseminate their messages on a scale that dwarfs anything Nazi propagandists operating in America in the 1930s could have accomplished.

Social media platforms are, at best, playing defense, removing content only after it has already spread. For instance, Facebook recently announced that it had taken down networks of "coordinated inauthentic behavior" in Egypt, Indonesia, Nigeria and the United Arab Emirates, but not before these accounts collectively accrued more than 74 million followers.

Even that extraordinary reach pales in comparison with the Russian interference campaign in the 2016 election, which reached a staggering 126 million people on Facebook and 20 million more on Instagram, according to a Senate Intelligence Committee report.

The dealings detailed in the indictment of Giuliani's associates should surprise no one: Foreign influence has long been a pervasive force in American politics. If history is any indication, we probably won't learn about it until well after the election results are in.

Ben Freeman is director of the Foreign Influence Transparency Initiative at the Center for International Policy.

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



THE WORLD'S MOST DANGEROUS PAPER ROUTE

AAFES Show Dates Timeline

Kuwait – Arifjan Zone 1: November 18th @ 2000

Kuwait – Buehring: November 18th @ 2000

Kuwait – Ali Al Salem: November 19th @ 2000

Qatar – Al Udiad: October 24th @ 2000

Qatar – As Sayliyah: October 23rd @ 2000

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STARS AND STRIPES

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Activision Blizzard under fire over China relations

By GENE PARK

The Washington Post

A bipartisan group of United States senators and Congress members is calling on Activision Blizzard to reconsider its decision to punish a Hong Kong Hearthstone player for his political speech during a live stream earlier this month.

"Your company claims to stand by 'one's right to express individual thoughts and opinions,' yet many of your own employees believe that Activision Blizzard's decision to punish [Ng "Blitzchung" Wai Chung] runs counter to those values," the letter reads. It was signed by Sens. Ron Wyden, of Oregon, and Marco Rubio, of Florida, along with Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, of New York, Mike Gallagher, of Wisconsin, and Tom

Malinowski, of New Jersey.

"Because your company is such a pillar of the gaming industry, your disappointing decision could have a chilling effect on gamers who seek to use their platform to promote human rights and basic freedoms."

Blizzard made a pro-Hong Kong statement during an official competition, and Blizzard initially banned him for one year and took away his winnings, which the letter references. After a global outrage, including a sternly worded tweet from Rubio, Blizzard lowered the suspension to six months.

The punishment would have been the same no matter what blitzchung said, claimed Blizzard Entertainment President J. Allen Brack, and he insisted the company's many business ties

with China had no influence on the decision. American collegiate esports players made a similar protest on U.S. soil, daring Blizzard to ban them, too. The three American University students were eventually suspended for six months last week.

The Hong Kong protests have been a common rallying point for social activists in recent months. A proposal by Hong Kong to allow extraditions to China sparked the movement, as it was seen by some as an attempt by Beijing to pick apart the autonomy and liberties promised when the former British colony returned to Chinese control in 1997.

Blizzard has invested in China's esports scene through its Overwatch League, placing franchises in Shanghai, Guangzhou, Hangzhou and Chengdu. Tencent,

a Chinese entertainment giant, owns a 5% stake in Blizzard's parent company, Activision Blizzard.

An official letter from Congress may only throw more wood into the fire surrounding Blizzard at a particularly poor time for the company. BlizzardCon, the company's annual gathering of tens of thousands of fans, begins Nov. 1.

Several protests are being planned, including a few Facebook event pages for "Raid Blizzard 2019" dressed as Winnie the Pooh, "the beloved children's character that eventually was banned in China because of internet memes mocking China's President Xi Jinping."

Fight for the Future, an online freedom activist group, has called for an umbrella protest of companies appearing to bend a knee to the Chinese government.

Evian Greer, the group's deputy director, said moderation on social networks is among "the most important decisions that humans are making right now."

"Companies should make content moderation decisions based on the needs of their community and humanity as a whole, not based on pressure from governments, whether it's the U.S., China or the U.K.," she said.

Greer added that this feels different from the multitudes of other internet outrage explosions, and that she's seeing people consider political action.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Oct. 21)	\$1.1430
Brazilian dollar (Oct. 21)	60.8749
British pound (Oct. 21)	\$1.32
Japanese yen (Oct. 21)	106.26
South Korean won (Oct. 21)	1,151.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.2887
Canada (Dollar)	1.3138
China (Yuan)	7.0804
Denmark (Krone)	6.7060
Egypt (Pound)	16.2528
Euro	\$1.1140/0.8976
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8423
Hungary (Forint)	237.31
Israel (Shekel)	3.5423
Japan (Yen)	108.50
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3033
Norway (Krone)	9.1837
Philippines (Peso)	51.22
Poland (Zloty)	3.85
Saudi (Riyal)	3.7598
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3650
South Korea (Won)	1,179.27
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9878
Thailand (Baht)	30.70
Turkey (Lira)	6.8735

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

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.00
Discount rate	2.50
Federals funds market rate	3.82
3-month bill	1.63
30-year bond	2.25

Stocks end lower; S&P 500 notches 2nd straight weekly gain

By ALEX VEIGA

Associated Press

The S&P 500 index closed out an uneven week of trading on Wall Street with its second straight weekly gain, even though stock indexes ended lower Friday.

Technology companies led the slide, which erased the major U.S. indexes' gains from the day before. Communication services, industrials and health care stocks also fell, outweighing gains in real estate companies, banks and elsewhere in the market.

Investors continued to focus on company earnings reports. They're searching for a clearer picture on the impact that the trade war between the U.S. and China is having on corporate profits and the broader economy.

"To some extent, the bleeding's

stopped, but now you need to figure out how healthy the patient is," said Willie Delveche, investment strategist at Baird. "Earnings help with that, and economic data that we receive over the next couple of months will help with that."

The S&P 500 index fell 11.75 points, or 0.4%, to 2,986.20. The index is just 1.3% below its all-time high set in late July. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 255.68 points, or 1%, to 26,770.20. The Nasdaq lost 67.31 points, or 0.8%, to 8,089.54. The Russell 2000 index of smaller stocks gave up 6.36 points, or 0.4%, to 1,535.48.

All told, the S&P 500 ended the week with a gain of 0.5%.

Smaller stocks outpaced the broader market, a sign that invest-

ors are growing more confident. The Russell 2000 ended the week 1.6% higher after rising 0.8% the week before.

Bond prices were little changed Friday. The yield on the 10-year Treasury held steady at 1.75%.

While trading turned choppy last week, investors mostly applauded companies' results so far, including those from JPMorgan Chase, UnitedHealth Group and railroad operator Kansas City Southern.

That helped investors temporarily brush aside worries over the U.S.-China trade conflict. The early round of mostly good results could also help calm investors' fears about another dismal forecast for earnings growth.

Analysts expect profit to contract by nearly 5% for companies

within the S&P 500, according to FactSet. Still, forecasts for declines in the first and second quarters were tempered as reporting progressed and companies finished those earnings seasons with tiny contractions instead.

MARKET WATCH

Oct. 18, 2019

Dow Jones Industrials	-255.68
	26,770.20
Nasdaq composite	-67.31
	8,089.54
Standard & Poor's 500	-11.75
	2,986.20
Russell 2000	-6.36
	1,535.48

WEATHER OUTLOOK



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

SPORTS BRIEFS/AUTO RACING

Briefly

Braves plan to talk chop with Native Americans

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Atlanta Braves officials say they plan to have talks with Native Americans about the Tomahawk Chop chant that has drawn complaints and stoked controversy during the Major League Baseball post-season.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported that team representatives will hold the talks during the offseason about deciding whether to keep the tomahawk chop tradition.

The Braves did not distribute their traditional red foam tomahawks to fans before Game 5 of their National League Division Series vs. the St. Louis Cardinals on Oct. 9. Fans at SunTrust Park raise the tomahawks and thrust them forward in a chopping motion, led by music and graphics on the video boards.

The Braves said they removed the tomahawks for the final game of their series with St. Louis after Cardinals pitcher Ryan Helsley said he finds the chant insulting. Helsley is a member of the Cherokee Nation. He's one of only a few Native Americans in the majors.

"I think it's a misrepresentation of the Cherokee people or Native Americans in general," Helsley told The St. Louis Post-Dispatch during the Braves-Cardinals series.

"Just depicts them in this kind of caveman-type people who are not intellectual," Helsley said. "They are a lot more than that. It's not me being offended by the whole mascot thing. It's not. It's about the misconception of us, the Native Americans, and it devalues us and how we're perceived in that way, or used as mascots. The Redskins and stuff like that."

The National Football League's Washington Redskins have also faced continuing criticism for their nickname, which critics say denigrates Native Americans. Fans of the NFL's Kansas City Chiefs have also done the tomahawk chant in their stadium, drawing more criticism.

The chant has been a part of the Braves' tradition since it was borrowed from Florida State University in the early 1990s.

Williams' Heisman sells for \$504,000

The Heisman Trophy won by Ricky Williams in 1998 at Texas was sold at auction for \$504,000, setting a record for college football's most recognizable award.

The winning bid for the trophy in Heritage Auctions' Fall Sports Memorabilia Collectibles auction exceeded the previous auction record for a Heisman set when Tim Brown's 1987 trophy garnered \$435,763 last December.

Williams earned the Heisman for the season he set the then-NCAA career record with 6,592 yards rushing. The mark was topped one year later by Ron Dayne.

Williams' Heisman is the last one awarded before trophy winners were required to sign an agreement forfeiting the right to sell it.

Inhaler turns Hardy's win into a no-contest

BOSTON — Former NFL All-Pro defensive end Greg Hardy's unanimous-decision win Friday over Ben Sosloli at heavyweight was changed to a no-contest by the Massachusetts State Athletic Commission because Hardy used an asthma inhaler between rounds.

Hardy was competing in the UFC's Fight Night at the TD Garden.

"I asked permission and was told I could use it," Hardy said. "It's an inhaler I've used my entire life. I never used it during a fight. That's why I asked permission."

Said White: "He asked the (Massachusetts commission) inspector if he could use it. The inspector asked if it was medically approved. He said it was USADA-approved (U.S. Anti-Doping Agency). But all you can have during the fight is water."

All three judges scored the bout 39-37. Hardy, who played for the Carolina Panthers and Dallas Cowboys, is now 3-1 with one no-contest. Sosloli dropped to 7-2 with two no-contests.

Both fighters stayed on their feet for almost the entire fight except for when Hardy briefly sent Sosloli to the mat with a leg kick in the final 90 seconds.

On the main card, Dominick Reyes remained undefeated in 12 fights, stopping former UFC midweight champion Chris Weidman by technical knockout in the first round.

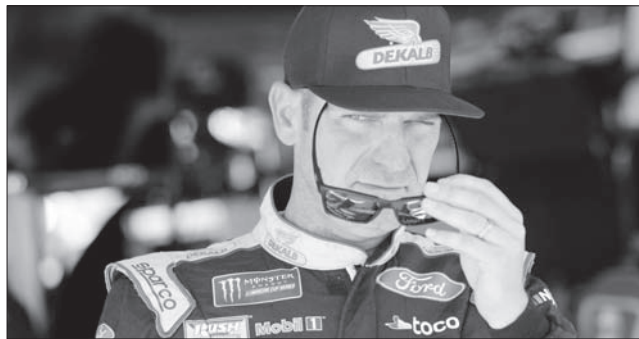
Reyes dropped Weidman (14-5) with a straight left hand in the non-title light heavyweight main event. After Reyes landed a few more punches to the head, referee Herb Dean stopped the fight at 1:43.

"I just felt loose," the 29-year-old Reyes said. "I was enjoying the fight. I saw him lunging in and I cracked him. I could tell he was hurt."

In other bouts on the main card, Darren Stewart won a split decision against Deron Winn at middleweight. Female flyweight Maycee Barber stopped Gillian Robertson by TKO in the first round and Joe Lauzon, of East Bridgewater, Mass., scored a TKO victory over Jonathan Pearce of Phoenix in a lightweight contest.

Kopecka withdraws from CJ Cup with knee injury

JEJU ISLAND, South Korea — Top-ranked Brooks Kopecka withdrew from the PGA Tour's CJ Cup before the third round Saturday after aggravating a left knee injury a day earlier when he slipped on wet concrete.



COLIN E. BRALEY/AP

Clint Bowyer reached a contract extension Friday with Stewart-Haas racing.

One down, one still iffy

Bowyer signs extension, now looks to stave off postseason ouster

By DAVE SKRETTA

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — Clint Bowyer rolled into Kansas Speedway on Friday with the comfort of knowing he'll be with Stewart-Haas Racing next season and the uncertainty of whether he'll be in the playoffs next week.

The Kansas reached a contract extension with SHR to remain in the No. 14 Ford regardless of what happens Sunday, when Bowyer faces postseason elimination. He sits 11th in the 12-driver field with the bottom four drivers eliminated after the race at Kan-

sas Speedway.

"Unfortunately the nature of the business, all that stuff falls on top of managing (the playoffs), but you just have to have good people around you," said Bowyer, who has been with SHR for three of his 15 seasons in NASCAR's top series. "My brother and everybody did a good job of getting that handled, doing it in a manner that I didn't have to worry about it."

Bowyer was hired to replace team co-owner Tony Stewart following his retirement after the 2016 season. That deal was done more than a year ahead of time, a rarity then and something that

has become nearly nonexistent in an era in which contracts are often signed at the last minute.

"Listen, it's always a good thing," Bowyer said. "I don't feel like I was racing for my career anyway. I race because I love to do it. I love to come back here and everything else. There's a lot of pride to be part of a sport like this, something you've been doing it since you were a little boy."

"Doing it another year? Yes, that's great and according to plan," Bowyer said. "But right now the plan is all about trying to stay alive in these playoffs and winning a championship."

NASCAR teams scramble with hauler woes

By DAVE SKRETTA

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — One hauler caught fire while traveling to Kansas Speedway, another went off the road when its driver had a medical emergency and wound up totaled at the bottom of a 60-foot embankment.

So much for wrecks only happening on the track. The No. 47 team from JTG Daugherty Racing was busy Friday morning putting an engine into a backup car for Ryan Preece after its team transporter caught fire the previous day. The drivers in the hauler were not injured, though the team was unsure what could be salvaged of the cars.

Hendrick Motorsports loaned one of its test haulers to the NASCAR Cup Series team, and it was parked near the back side of the garage area to prepare for Sunday's race at Kansas Speedway.

"Rookie stripes are on and it's official. I'm very grateful for the safety of our truck drivers, and the hard work everyone has put in this week to get on track today," Preece said in a tweet.

Less than 12 hours before the JTG fire, the transporter bringing Kaulig Racing's cars to Kansas for Saturday's Xfinity race went off a road in North Carolina. The hauler crashed through the guardrail, down an embankment and the trailer overturned before coming to a stop in a wooded area.

The North Carolina highway patrol said the crash, which occurred near Asheville, happened when driver Barry Sheppard had "some kind of medical issue." Co-driver Barry Collins attempted to right the truck before it ran off the side of the road and down the embankment.



ORLIN WAGNER/AP

A crew member for JTG Daugherty Racing enters a backup hauler from Hendrick Motorsports. The JTG race team had to switch haulers after an accident on the way to Kansas Speedway rendered their hauler unusable.

Both drivers were taken to the hospital with minor injuries and later released.

"We haven't assessed everything so I don't know what we can salvage or can't salvage," Kaulig Racing president Chris Rice said. "Our main concern is our driver is OK."

The team, which is fielding the No. 10 entry for Ross Chastain, said it would be using a backup car it had been preparing for Texas. All they managed to get out of the totaled truck were his fire suit and helmet because the rest of the wreckage was taken to an impound lot.

NHL

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Buffalo	8	6	1	1	13	30	18
Boston	7	5	1	1	11	19	14
Tampa Bay	7	4	2	1	9	27	21
Toronto	8	4	3	1	9	31	28
Montreal	7	3	2	2	8	26	24
Florida	7	2	2	3	7	23	29
Detroit	8	3	5	0	6	19	28

Ottawa	6	1	4	1	3	14	22
Metropolitan Division							
Pittsburgh	8	6	2	0	12	32	20
Carolina	9	6	3	0	12	30	25
Washington	9	5	2	2	12	31	28
N.Y. Islanders	7	4	3	0	8	18	18
Columbus	7	3	3	1	7	16	23
Philadelphia	5	2	2	1	5	14	15
N.Y. Rangers	5	2	3	0	4	15	19
New Jersey	7	1	4	2	4	18	31

Western Conference

	Central Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Colorado	7	6	0	1	13	29	19	
St. Louis	7	3	1	3	9	22	24	
Nashville	7	4	3	0	8	30	28	
Winnipeg	9	4	5	0	8	27	33	
Chicago	5	2	2	1	5	15	15	
Dallas	9	1	7	1	3	17	30	
Minnesota	9	1	7	1	3	17	30	

Minnesota	7	1	6	0	2	14	29
Pacific Division							
Edmonton	8	7	1	0	14	31	20
Anaheim	8	6	2	0	12	22	14
Vegas	8	5	3	0	10	29	21
Calgary	8	4	3	1	9	23	22
Vancouver	6	4	2	0	8	22	14
Arizona	6	3	2	1	7	16	11
San Jose	7	3	4	0	6	18	24

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

Thursday's games
Tampa Bay 4, Boston 3, 5
Montreal 4, Minnesota 0
New Jersey 5, N.Y. Rangers 2
Vancouver 4, St. Louis 3, SO
N.Y. Islanders 3, Winnipeg 1
Calgary 5, Detroit 1
Arizona 5, Nashville 2
Vegas 3, Ottawa 2, SO
Buffalo 3, Los Angeles 0

Friday's games
Pittsburgh 4, Dallas 2
Washington 5, N.Y. Rangers 2
Colorado 5, Florida 4, OT
Chicago 3, Columbus 2, OT
Edmonton 2, Detroit 1
Anaheim 4, Carolina 2

Saturday's games
Vancouver at New Jersey
Montreal at St. Louis
Vegas at Pittsburgh
N.Y. Islanders at Columbus
Colorado at Tampa Bay
Boston at Toronto
Tampa Bay at Arizona
Dallas at Philadelphia
Florida at Nashville
Calgary at Los Angeles
Buffalo at San Jose

Sunday's games
Vancouver at N.Y. Rangers
Montreal at Minnesota
Washington at Chicago
Edmonton at Winnipeg
Calgary at Anaheim

Friday

Oilers 2, Red Wings 1

First Period—1, Edmonton 0-2
Second Period—1, Edmonton, Neal 9 (Chasson, Nurse), 7:39, 2; Edmonton, Bear 2 (Draisaitl, Nurse), 12:22, 3; Detroit, Green 1 (Kahkonen), 16:37.
Shots on Goal—Detroit 13-6-7, 26; Edmonton 14-15-8-37.

Power-play opportunities—Detroit 0 of 1; Edmonton 0 of 2.
Goals by—Edmonton, Bernier 2-0 (37 shots-35 saves), Edmonton, Koskinen 4-0 (24-22).
A-17,420 (18,837), T-219.

Penguins 4, Stars 2

First Period—0, Dallas, Hintz 2 (Klingberg, Benn), 5:10, 2; Pittsburgh, McCann 3 (Pettersson, Hornqvist), 17:36.
Second Period—3, Pittsburgh, Letang 3 (Simon), 6:34, 4; Pittsburgh, Hornqvist 4 (Gumoulin, Kallund), 10:20, 5; Dallas, Klingberg 1 (Heiskanen), 12:01, 6; Pittsburgh, Letang 4 (Hornqvist, Gendron), 19:38.
Shots on Goal—Dallas 5-11-8-24, Pittsburgh 10-16-7-33.
Goals by—Dallas, Khudobin 9-3-4 (32 shots-29 saves), Pittsburgh, Murray 5-2-0 (24-22).
A-14,875 (18,837), T-210.

Ducks 4, Hurricanes 2

First Period—1, Anaheim, Henrique 5 (Rakell, Kessel, 4:06, 2; Anaheim, Terry 1 (Steel, Fowler), 13:44.
Second Period—3, Anaheim, Silfverberg 4 (Del Zotto), 0:37, 4; Anaheim, Rowney 1 (Rakell, Lindholm), 5:56 (sh), 5; Carolina, Haula 7 (Hamilton, Terevainen), 8:47 (pp), 6; Carolina, Fleury 1, 12:20.
Shots on Goal—Carolina 12-18-24, Anaheim 8-9-3-20.
Power-play opportunities—Carolina 1 of 3; Anaheim 0 of 1.
Goals—Carolina, Markez 4-1-0 (13 shots-10 saves), Anaheim, Miller 2-0-0 (24-22).
A-14,755 (17,174), T-246.

Avalanche 5, Panthers 4 (OT)

Colorado
Florida
First Period—1, Florida, Huberdeau 2 (Weegar, Ekblad), 3:32, 2; Florida, Vatrano 1 (Stralman, Malen), 8:26 (sh), 3; Colorado, Donskoi 3 (Cole, Compher), 10:57, 4; Florida, Huberdeau 3 (Brown, Barkov), 14:57.
Second Period—5, Colorado, Nieto 2 (Bellemare, Calvert), 11:23, 6; Colorado, Burakovsky 3 (Donskoi, Zadorov), 11:55, 7; Florida, Connolly 3 (Stralman), 14:05, 8; Colorado, Burakovsky 4 (Donskoi, Cole), 14:21.
Overtime—9, Colorado, MacKinnon 4 (Grant, Burakovsky), 3:03.
Shots on Goal—Colorado 13-18-7-33, Florida 17-11-12-4-44.
Power-play opportunities—Colorado 0 of 3; Florida 0 of 4.
Goals—Colorado, Grubauer 5-0-1 (44 shots-40 saves), Florida, Bobrovsky 2-2-1 (41-36).

Blackhawks 3, Blue Jackets 2 (OT)

Columbus
First Period—1, Chicago, Caggula 1 (de Haan, DeBrincat), 15:35.
Second Period—2, Columbus, Dubols 3 (Atkinson, Nyquist), 5:33.
Third Period—3, Columbus, Nutivaara 2 (Bjorkstrand), 2:55, 4; Chicago, DeBrincat 2 (Kane, Gustafson), 8:08 (pp).
Overtime—5, Chicago, Toews 1 (Kane), 0:46.
Shots on Goal—Columbus 15-11-13, Chicago 10-8-13-2-33.
Power-play opportunities—Columbus 0 of 4; Chicago 1 of 5.
Goals—Columbus, Merzlikins 0-1 (33 shots-30 saves), Chicago, Lehner 1-0 (31-39).
A-21,518 (19,177), T-2-22.

Capitals 5, Rangers 2

N.Y. Rangers
Washington
First Period—1, Washington, Oshie 5, 2:24 (pp), 2; N.Y. Rangers, Buchnevich 1 (Trouba, Zibanejad), 12:25 (pp), 3; Washington, Kempny 1 (Carlson, Ovechkin), 15:16.
Second Period—4, Washington, Dowd 1 (Carlson, Orlov), 3:45, 5; N.Y. Rangers, Penner 3 (Kreider, Zibanejad), 16:56.
Third Period—6, Washington, Oshie 6 (Carlson, Backstrom), 10:18 (pp), 7; Washington, Hathaway 2 (Hagelin), 19:32.
Shots on Goal—N.Y. Rangers 12-7-9-28, Washington 10-16-9-35.
Power-play opportunities—N.Y. Rangers 1 of 4; Washington 2 of 4.
Goals—N.Y. Rangers, Lundqvist 1-2-0 (33 shots-35 saves), Washington, Holtby 2-1-2 (28-26).
A-18,573 (18,277), T-2-27.

Scoring Leaders

Through Friday	GP	G	A	PTS
Connor McDavid, EDM	8	5	12	17
John Carlson, WAS	9	5	14	17
Leon Draisaitl, EDM	8	5	10	16
David Pastrnak, BOS	7	5	13	15
Mark Scheifele, WPG	9	4	8	12
Neddy Crosby, PIT	8	4	8	12
Patrik Laine, WPG	9	3	9	12
Mark Stone, VEG	8	5	6	11
Brad Marchand, BOS	8	4	7	11

8 tied with 10 pts.



CODY McLAUGHLIN, CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Edmonton Oilers right wing Zack Kassian, left, celebrates Detroit Red Wings defenseman Danny DeKeyser during the Oilers' 2-1 win Friday in Edmonton.



WILFRED LEE/AP

Colorado Avalanche center Nathan MacKinnon, left, celebrates with teammates after he scored in overtime of the team's 5-4 win at the Florida Panthers on Friday.

Roundup

MacKinnon lifts Avalanche to O defeat of Panthers

Associated Press

SUNRISE, Fla. — Nathan MacKinnon didn't let an injury keep him off the ice.

MacKinnon scored 3:03 into overtime to give the Colorado Avalanche their sixth victory in seven games this season, 5-4 over the Florida Panthers on Friday night.

MacKinnon played after sustaining a leg injury Wednesday night in an overtime loss to Pittsburgh and missing the morning skate on Friday.

"I knew I was going to play the whole day," MacKinnon said. "It's great. It just shows the resilience our team has. We're a very calm group and confident group. Luckily, I finished it in OT."

MacKinnon's shot from the high slot and beat Sergei Bobrovsky to the glove side.

Andre Burakovsky scored twice, Jonas Donskoi had a goal and two assists, Matt Nieto also scored and Philipp Grubauer stopped 40 shots for Colorado.

Jonathan Huberdeau scored twice for Florida, Brett Connolly and Frank Vatrano added goals and Sergei Bobrovsky made 36 saves.

Connolly gave the Panthers a 4-3 lead with 5:55 left in the second, and Burakovsky tied it 16 seconds later when he banged in a rebound.

Oilers 2, Red Wings 1: James Neal and Ethan Bear scored, Mikko Koskinen made 25 saves and host Edmonton beat Detroit to regain sole possession of the overall NHL lead.

Darnell Nurse had two assists to help the Oilers improve to 7-1-0. Mike Green scored for the Red Wings. Coming off a 5-1 loss at Calgary on Thursday night, Detroit has lost four in a row to drop to 3-5-0.

Neal opened the scoring eight minutes into the second period when a long rebound came out to him for his NHL-leading ninth goal of the season. He has already surpassed the seven goals he had last season with the Calgary Flames.

Blackhawks 3, Jackets 2 (OT): Jonathan Toews scored 46 seconds into overtime, Robin Lehner made 37 saves and host Chicago beat Columbus.

Toews drove to the net and knocked a rebound of Patrick Kane's shot from the right circle past Elvis Merzlikins to give the Blackhawks their second straight win. It was Toews' first goal of the season.

Alex DeBrincat tied it at 2 with a power-play goal midway through the third period. Drake Caggula also scored for Chicago, and Kane had with two assists. Pierre-Luc Dubois scored his third goal in four games and Markus Nutivaara connected early in the third for the Blue Jackets.

Ducks 4, Hurricanes 2: Adam Henrique and Troy Terry scored in the first period, Ryan Miller made 22 saves and Anaheim remained unbeaten at home.

Carter Kowcyk scored a short-handed goal to put the Ducks up 4-0 early in the second period, chasing Carolina goalie Petr

Mrazek. Jakob Silfverberg also scored in the second period for Anaheim, which is off to a 6-2-0 start under new coach Dallas Eakins after missing the playoffs last spring for the first time since 2012.

Haydn Fleury scored his first NHL goal for the Hurricanes, who lost to two of their three stops on a California road swing after a 5-1-0 start to the season. Erik Haula scored Carolina's opening goal before leaving with an injury from a check by the Ducks' Josh Manson.

Capitals 5, Rangers 2: John Carlson added three assists to his historic start, T.J. Oshie scored two power-play goals and host Washington beat New York.

Carlson assisted on one of Oshie's goals and scores by Nic Dowd and Michal Kempny in the Czech defenseman's return from a hamstring injury. With 17 points, Carlson tied Edmonton captain Connor McDavid for most in the NHL, and he leads the league with 14 assists.

Garnet Hathaway also scored for the Capitals, and Braden Holtby stopped 26 shots.

Penguins 4, Stars 2: Kris Letang scored the go-ahead goal in the third period and added an empty-netter to help host Pittsburgh beat Dallas for its fifth straight victory.

Jared McCann and Patrik Hornqvist also scored for the Penguins and Matt Murray made 22 saves.

Roope Hintz and John Klingberg scored for the Stars.

NBA/COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Big: Detroit looking to advance in playoffs for first time since 2008

FROM BACK PAGE

guess. Detroit's moves were certainly interesting, and there were seemingly inevitable questions about whether the Pistons should double down on big names in their 30s by adding Carmelo Anthony. That did not happen, but Detroit has shown a willingness to be creative when trying to add talent.

The Pistons haven't won a playoff game since 2008, and they aren't exactly a prime destination for the game's top free agents. They also haven't been bad enough lately to pick near the very top of the draft.

In 2018, they gave up a first-round pick in a huge deal for the often-injured Griffin. He was tremendous last season, joining LeBron James and Giannis Antetokounmpo as the only players in the league averaging at least 24 points, seven rebounds and five assists per game. The Pistons made the playoffs but were swept in the first round.

Now Rose arrives, fresh off a season in which he averaged 18 points for Minnesota. He appeared in only 51 games because of a variety of injuries, but that was more than double what he played the previous season for the Timberwolves and Cleveland. Last season was his second-highest scoring mark since tearing his left ACL in 2012. He also shot a career-best 37% from three-point range.

"I'm more poised, I'm shooting the three, I'm more efficient," Rose said. "It's just that people love to see the reckless way that I played, and the reckless way that I played led me to my injuries."

The Pistons would love for Rose to be healthy and resurgent, the way Griffin was for most of last season. Rose often played off the ball last season, so it's possible

he can succeed alongside Detroit point guard Reggie Jackson. He can also be an option at the point if Jackson struggles to produce consistently.

While Rose is obviously an important part of the Pistons' plans, Johnson's future is murkier. He didn't play in the NBA last season. He ended up in the BIG3 3-on-3 league — he said it was just something to do — where he was named MVP. Detroit acquired him last month.

"It wasn't like, 'I'm going to play in the BIG3, so these people can see me.' That wasn't my purpose," Johnson said. "I did it just for the love of the game, just to go out and have fun."

Pistons executive Ed Stefanski said Johnson would be competing for a roster spot, but the team was happy to bring in the veteran with more than 20,000 career points. Johnson has averaged 14.8 minutes and 3.8 points in four pre-season games.

"Joe has all the traits you need to be a professional. That doesn't hurt our team to have a guy like that. It doesn't hurt the younger players to see the work ethic that Joe can bring to the table," Johnson said. "Joe still, we think, has something left to prove. That's what he wants to do."

So Griffin, Rose and Johnson — accomplished players all — enter the season amid varying expectations. Griffin is the team's undisputed star, Rose the intriguing newcomer and Johnson the former standout trying to extend his career.

All three sense an opportunity. "I think the sky is the limit. You've got pretty much everything on this team," Johnson said.

"Good point guards, great bigs, some wings. And then you've got a great mixture of younger guys and older guys."



MATT ROURE/AP

Detroit Pistons' Derrick Rose, left, averaged 18 points a game last season for Minnesota. He played only 51 games, but that was double what he played the season before.



PHOTOS BY CHARLES REX ARBOGAST/AP

Ohio State quarterback Justin Fields (1) threw four touchdown passes to lead the No. 4-ranked Buckeyes to a 52-3 win Friday at Northwestern.

Buckeyes blast Wildcats

Fields leads No. 4 Ohio State by Northwestern, 52-3

By ANDREW SELIGMAN

Associated Press

EVANSTON, Ill. — Eyeing a playoff spot and a shot at the national championship, No. 4 Ohio State sure is locked in at the moment.

Justin Fields threw for four touchdowns, J.K. Dobbins rushed for 121 yards and the Buckeyes pounded Northwestern 52-3 on Friday night.

Ohio State (7-0, 4-0 Big Ten) did exactly as expected and blew the game open early, jumping to a 31-3 halftime lead. "I just feel like it's business," defensive end Chase Young said. "That's the mentality I have, just because I know we can't have any fluke losses. It's gonna mess with what we want to do."

Fields completed 18 of 23 passes for 194 yards. The sophomore transfer from Georgia matched his career high for TDs through the air. He now has 22 passing and 30 overall on the season.

The nation's second-leading rusher, Dobbins scored from the 5 in the second quarter after breaking off a 67-yard run. He also caught a 19-yard touchdown pass in the first half.

The junior now has 947 yards rushing after finishing with more than 1,000 in each of his first two seasons.

Chris Olave caught two TDs. Blake Haubel kicked a 55-yard field goal that tied the second-longest in the history of the storied program. The Buckeyes racked up 480 yards while holding Northwestern to 199 and remained unbeaten heading into their showdown at home with No. 6 Wisconsin next week.

"I think we feel good about the



Ohio State running back J.K. Dobbins scores on a 19-yard pass from quarterback Justin Fields during the first half. Dobbins also ran for 121 yards and had a 5-yard touchdown run.

started the first four games before sitting out the loss at Nebraska two weeks ago because of a lower-body injury, were listed with the first team on the depth chart this week.

"We're continually beating ourselves (on offense)," coach Pat Fitzgerald said. "We have guys that are pressing, trying to do too much. They care so much. They're a great group of guys and that's why my heart breaks for them."

Breaking it open

Through the first six games, Ohio State outscored opponents 296-53 — an average margin of 40.5 points that was the biggest differential among FBS schools. The Buckeyes came in leading the Big Ten in scoring and were tops in the conference in total yards and yards per game by wide margins.

With a defense that ranked second in the nation and conference to Wisconsin going against one of the country's worst offenses, the Buckeyes made it look easy.

Ohio State went 70 yards on the game's opening possession, with Fields hitting a wide-open Olave down the middle for a 20-yard touchdown.

Northwestern's Charlie Kuhnbander kicked a 33-yard field goal with just over three minutes left in the first quarter. Fields made it 14-3 early in the second when he hit Dobbins on a slant. And after the Wildcats punted, the Buckeyes needed just two plays to bump the lead to 18, with Dobbins carrying the load.

Ohio State added 10 more points in the closing minutes of the half to break it open.

MLB

Memories of Senators involve few wins

Rooting for Washington's major league franchise in 1960s and early '70s was a losing proposition

BY BEN WALKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON couldn't even win the egg tossing contest. Growing up in the Washington suburbs during the 1960s, cheering for the local baseball team was a lost cause.

A trip to the World Series like these Nationals? Forget it. Our Senators were out of it by opening day.

So we found other things to root for under the wavy roof at D.C. Stadium and RFK. Like huge Frank Howard hitting a monster home run — they painted the seats white where Hondo's shots landed in the upper deck.

Or flashy catcher Cazzie Casanova whipping the ball back to the mound, faster than ol' curveballer Camilo Pascual pitched it. Or fresh Del Unser flying around the bags, boosting his league-leading triples total.

And, of course, the time Ted Williams came to town.

Which is why I can remember being so excited to go with mom and dad to see a doubleheader against the powerful Minnesota Twins.

Between games, that's the only time our team had a chance.

Hard to imagine now, but that's when they held corny competitions. First, Hondo and Mike Epstein and Ken McMullen took on Harmon Killebrew and the Twins in a Home Run Derby. They each got three swings. We lost.

Then, the egg toss.

Senators shortstop Eddie Brinkman and sure-handed second baseman Tim Cullen stood a few feet apart on one side, Twins infielders Rod Carew and Cesar Tovar on the other. They took turns, moving back a few feet with each throw.

We were bound to win this one — until the raw egg exploded in Steady Eddie's hands.

The old Senators were terrible when dad was a teenage usher at Griffith Stadium in the '40s, hence the label that stuck with them for decades: "First in war, first in peace and last in the American League."

At least that version enjoyed an earlier heyday with the great Walter Johnson and won three pennants and a championship from 1924-33. But they moved to Minnesota in 1961 and turned into the Twins.

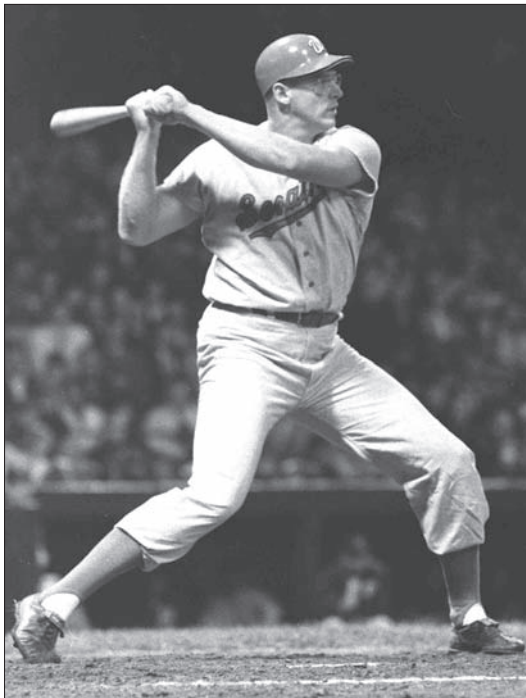
We got the expansion Senators in their place and they weren't any good either, except for a winning record in 1969 after Ted Williams was lured out of retirement to manage the team. Seeing the Splinter wearing his familiar No. 9, standing by as President Richard M. Nixon threw out the ceremonial first ball at the opener. It was magical.

Ted's picture was on the cover of game programs that year, next to "Welcome back to Baseball." Plus, we got the All-Star Game. The following year, incidentally, the cover featured a drawing of Nixon — "Our No. 1 Fan" — at a packed park.

But usually, it was pretty empty. Sometimes the crowds, if you could call them that, were under 2,000. Fewer fans, however, meant more opportunities for autographs.



AP photos



Above: Washington Senators programs, including one featuring Richard Nixon and Ted Williams, right. Left: Senators slugger Frank Howard connects for a ninth inning home run against the Tigers, in Detroit on May 18, 1968.

I got Al Kaline, Brooks Robinson, Sudden Sam McDowell, lots of big stars along the railing. The Senator signatures meant just as much. They were our guys — Casey Cox, Lee Maye, Joe Grzenda, among others.

There was an ulterior motive to moving down, too.

Back then, pitchers often warmed up in front of the dugout before the game. That was true at many parks. They threw on flat ground, the catcher crouched next to the backstop.

So I would sometimes wander to the front row to barb — as best as an 11-year-old could — the visiting twirlers. They were only 20 feet away. It was easy.

Once I watched a young White Sox pitcher get loose. He had a habit of briefly closing his eyes in mid-motion. Time to rattle the rook.

Me: Hey! You can't see where the ball's going!

Him: Who's your favorite player?

Me: Del Unser. He's great.

Him: Yeah? Go tell him I'm going to hit him in the head.

Oh, yikes. I remember sitting in fear when Del came up, worried I'd jinxed his career. Thankfully, no beanballs that afternoon.

Many days, the park was a treasure trove.

I got a bunch of balls during batting practice. It was simple: Learn the names of the newest call-ups from the minors, give 'em a shout. Toby Harrah overthrew me before his first home game, I corralled it. Couple of cracked bats, too.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

MLB



AP photos

A white seat in the leftfield upper deck section of RFK Stadium marks the spot where the Washington Senators' Frank Howard hit a home run. Growing up in the Washington suburbs during the 1960s, the local baseball team was a lost cause. So they found other things to root for, like huge Frank Howard hitting a monster home run, painting the seats white where Hondo's shots landed in the upper deck.

FROM PAGE 28

Even dad got in on the action. He snagged a souvenir for us by vaulting over a row of seats in section 222 to snare a foul ball by Ed Stroud, just before a beer-splashing, giant-sized fella landed right on top of Pop.

My specialty? Lineup cards. Nowadays, they're prized pieces of memorabilia, often sold or auctioned off. Then, they were scraps taped to the wall. A bat boy cleaning the dugouts after the game would gladly rip them down to give away.

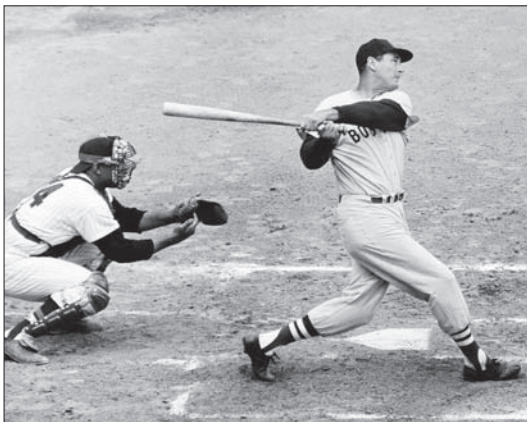
I've got a dozen, with names like Yaz, Reggie and Boog. I still have the lineup card from the last completed Washington Senators game — Sept. 29, 1971, when 4,003 fans showed up for a loss to the Yankees. The next night, the crowd stormed the field in the ninth inning and the game was declared a forfeit.

That finished off another miserable

season, the final countdown on the giant Longines clock in right-center field, no more info on the Magic-Message board. The Senators had added faded stars Denny McLain and Curt Flood, to no avail, and the team moved to Texas the next year and became the Rangers.

The closest we ever got to a World Series at RFK Stadium was 1972, right after the Senators left. That's when, probably out of pity, the Pirates and Orioles — who had played in the previous Fall Classic — came for an exhibition game in May. We went, and it was neat seeing Roberto Clemente and Willie Stargell in our park. Kinda sad, too.

By the time I was in high school, the Senators were a distant memory. Sometimes we'd drive up from Rockville to see the Baltimore Orioles — my mom liked watching eccentric Detroit pitcher Mark "The Bird" Fidrych talk to the ball.



Above: Ted Williams of the Boston Red Sox knocks the ball out of the park for a home run on April 18, 1960 against the Senators in Washington. Left: The lineup card that was hung in the Senators dugout on Sept. 29, 1971, for a game against the New York Yankees at RFK Stadium in Washington.

WASHINGTON SENATORS	DATE	OPPONENT
1. UNICE	2. Clark	3
2. Hanson	3. Taylor	4
3. Blittman	4. Mauer	5
4. Hanson	5. White	6
5. Blittman	6. Alex	7
6. Finner	7. Hanson	8
7. Mauer	8. G. White	9
8. Blittman	9. Michael	10
9. Sullivan	10. Stett	11

LINE	EXTRA	BU	LINE	EXTRA	BU
Blittman	Blittman	Kenny	Mauer	Mauer	
Hanson	Hanson	Baker	White	White	
Blittman	Blittman	White	White	White	
Blittman	Blittman	White	White	White	
Blittman	Blittman	White	White	White	

Some evenings, my dad and I would wander over to Cabin John Park after dinner to watch slow-pitch softball. The fields are close to Walter Johnson High School — after playing, he got into politics in Montgomery County, Md.

One summer, we kept noticing a player for Long's Fence, or maybe it was Federal Wrecking. A terrific hitter, but it was how he ran the bases that looked so wonderful. Like a pro, really.

We bumped into him after a game and my dad jokingly suggested he should've played for the Senators.

"I did," he said.

It was Chuck Hinton. He batted .310 for Washington in 1962 and wore the curly W in the 1964 All-Star Game. Traded to Cleveland, he'd moved back to the D.C. area after retiring.

Guess the Senators hadn't totally left us, after all.



RFK Stadium is seen behind the Capitol building, in Washington on May 27, 2004. RFK never witnessed a World Series during the days of the Washington Senators, who most years were seemingly out of the running by Opening Day.

MLB PLAYOFFS

Yankees rough up Verlander early

By RONALD BLUM
Associated Press

NEW YORK — James Paxton was filled with nerves, and so were New York Yankees fans, worried the season was slipping away.

Tension only surged when the top of the first featured a little grounder that got away, a passed ball and a run-scoring wild pitch. No worries.

Boom! DJ LeMahieu drove Justin Verlander's second pitch over the wall to tie the score.

Clang! Aaron Hicks hit a three-run homer off the foul pole later in the inning.

Just like that, the Bronx Bombers were back — in the game, and in this matchup of powerhouses.

A day after a brutal loss, and with little margin for more errors, the Yankees played like a 103-win team. Paxton chilled Houston's bats and the bullpen followed with shutdown relief to beat the Astros 4-1 Friday night, cutting New York's AL Championship Series deficit to 3-2.

"I wasn't ready to go home yet," Paxton said. "So I wanted to go out and give my team everything I had and just battle away."

Now the teams rush to Texas, where the series resumes Saturday night without a day off. With pitching plans disrupted by a rainout earlier this week, both teams plan all-bullpen efforts in Game 6. But Gerrit Cole, 19-0 since May, looms as the Astros' starter on Sunday if New York manages to extend the matchup to the seven-game limit.

"We've just got to go back home and finish the job," Houston's Carlos Correa said.

Paxton, a fishing aficionado born outside Vancouver in Ladner, British Columbia, wore three-quarter-length sleeves on a night with a game-time temperature of 52 degrees. That was the coldest for a Verlander start



FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

Houston Astros starting pitcher Justin Verlander reacts after giving up a first-inning, three-run home run to Aaron Hicks in the New York Yankees 4-1 win Friday night in New York.

since last year's ALCS opener at Boston, according to STATS — he had on long sleeves and half of Houston's fielders had hoodies or balacavas.

After lasting just into the third inning in Game 2, Paxton struck out nine in six innings, allowing four hits and four walks. Punching his pitching hand into his glove after big strikeouts, he saved his biggest emotion for his 112th and final pitch. Manager Aaron Boone had just made a trip to the mound, unsure whether he would make a change.

"He just said, 'Are you ready? Do you have anything more left in the tank?'" Paxton said.

"And I said, 'Yeah, let's go. I want this.'"

Robinson Chirinos hit a first-pitch fastball that Brett Gardner caught in front of the left-field scoreboard with a runner on.

"When it first left the bat: 'Oh, no!'" Boone remembered right to himself.

After Tommy Kahnle allowed George Springer's one-out single in seventh and walked Jose Altuve, Zack Britton retired Michael Brantley and Alex Bregman. Britton struck out two in a perfect eighth, and Aroldis Chapman finished with a 1-2-3 ninth for the save.

Paxton outpitched Verlander, an eight-time All-Star and former AL MVP and Cy Young Award winner, on a night when each team had five hits.

Verlander opened with a JV first inning — not Justin Verintage, but junior varsity. He allowed a pair of first-inning homers for the first time in 28 postseason starts and gave up four runs in an inning for the first time since Houston acquired him from Detroit in August 2017.

"Fastball command wasn't very good, and the slider was just hanging," Verlander said.

Verlander retired 10 in a row after Hicks' homer and allowed five hits in seven innings with nine strikeouts and no walks.

"We took advantage of his missed locations when he was a little vulnerable," LeMahieu said. "And that's the difference in the game."

Sabathia not having second thoughts about retirement

By RONALD BLUM
Associated Press

NEW YORK — CC Sabathia walked into Yankee Stadium's interview room with his left arm in a sling Friday, 16 hours after shuffling off the mound in pain following the \$8,62nd and final pitch of his major league career.

That powerful left shoulder — which earned six All-Star appearances, the 2007 AL Cy Young Award and possibly a spot in the Hall of Fame — finally had given out.

"I think it's just kind of fitting," he said. "I threw until I couldn't anymore. My bulky body — 6-foot-6, 300 pounds and perhaps a tad more — had echoed the decision he announced last winter.

No second thoughts about retirement following 19 major league seasons. No temptation for more, the 39-year-old explained to his wife.

"I told Amber last night that this was the best way for it to end for me because of the way I've been feeling, loving the bullpen, jogging out, feeling pretty good, I feel like about July of next year I'll be like, 'I think I can pitch,' he said.



SETH WENIG/AP

New York Yankees pitcher CC Sabathia said his dislocated shoulder that he suffered Thursday made his retirement choice easier.

He dislocated a joint in his pitching shoulder during the eighth inning of New York's Game 4 loss to Houston on his 17th pitch, then pushed his arm through three more before the torment became too great. He was dropped from the Yankees' AL Championship Series roster Friday before Game 5 and replaced by

right-hander Ben Heller.

New York trails 3-2 in the best-of-seven series, and even if the Yankees advance, Sabathia would not be eligible to return for the World Series. He said he will have an MRI to determine whether he needs surgery.

"I was in a pretty good amount of pain last night and today. Waking up, I didn't sleep that good," Sabathia said. "It's pretty sore and the pain has been pretty intense since that pitch."

Tributes came from throughout baseball. His arm may have betrayed Sabathia, but teammates and opponents spoke of his heart.

"CC is such a big man and big personality of a big man," said Houston manager AJ Hinch, who caught Sabathia during spring training with Cleveland in 2003. "If he wanted to stay as a left-handed reliever, teams would line up to let him keep pitching."

Sabathia finished with a 251-161 regular season record with 3,093 strikeouts. He announced this was going to be his last year, and he made four trips to the injured list caused by his balky right knee, repaired by surgeries after the 2010 season, in July 2014 and after the 2016 and '18 seasons.

Playoffs

x-if necessary
WILDCARD
Washington 4, Milwaukee 3
Tampa Bay 5, Oakland 1
DIVISION SERIES
(Best-of-five)
American League
Houston 3, Tampa Bay 2
Houston 6, Tampa Bay 2
Houston 3, Tampa Bay 1
Tampa Bay 10, Houston 3
Tampa Bay 4, Houston 1
Houston 6, Tampa Bay 1
N.Y. Yankees 3, Minnesota 0
N.Y. Yankees 10, Minnesota 4
N.Y. Yankees 8, Minnesota 2
N.Y. Yankees 5, Minnesota 1

National League
Washington 3, L.A. Dodgers 2
Washington 4, L.A. Dodgers 1
L.A. Dodgers 10, Washington 4
Washington 6, L.A. Dodgers 1
Washington 7, L.A. Dodgers 3, 10 innings
St. Louis 3, Atlanta 2
St. Louis 7, Atlanta 6
Atlanta 3, St. Louis 0
Atlanta 3, St. Louis 1
St. Louis 5, Atlanta 4, 10 innings
St. Louis 13, Atlanta 1

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES
(Best-of-seven)
American League
Houston 3, N.Y. Yankees 2
New York 7, Houston 0
Houston 3, New York 2, 11 innings
Houston 4, New York 1
Houston 8, New York 3
Friday: New York 4, Houston 1
Saturday, Oct. 19: at Houston
x-Sunday, Oct. 20: at Houston
National League
Washington 4, St. Louis 0
Washington 2, St. Louis 1
Washington 8, St. Louis 1
Washington 7, St. Louis 4
WORLD SERIES
(Best-of-seven)
Washington vs. Houston-N.Y. Yankees
winner

Tuesday, Oct. 22: at Houston-N.Y. Yankees
winner
Wednesday, Oct. 23: at Houston-N.Y. Yankees
winner
Friday, Oct. 25: at Washington
Saturday, Oct. 26: at Washington
x-Sunday, Oct. 27: at Washington
x-Tuesday, Oct. 29: at Houston-N.Y. Yankees
winner
x-Wednesday, Oct. 30: at Houston-N.Y. Yankees
winner

Saturday

N.Y. Yankees 4, Houston 1											
Houston					New York						
Springer	ab	r	h	bi	LeMahieu	ab	r	h	bi		
Altuve <td>2b</td> <td>2</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>Judge<td>4</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td></td><td></td></td>	2b	2	0	0	Judge <td>4</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td></td> <td></td>	4	1	1	1		
Brantley <td>3b</td> <td>3</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>Torres</td> <td>2b</td> <td>2</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td></td> <td></td>	3b	3	0	0	Torres	2b	2	0	0		
Gurriel <td>2b</td> <td>4</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>Stanton<td>dh</td><td>3</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td></td><td></td></td>	2b	4	0	0	Stanton <td>dh</td> <td>3</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td></td> <td></td>	dh	3	0	0		
Urbil <td>1b</td> <td>4</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>Hicks</td> <td>c</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td></td> <td></td>	1b	4	0	0	Hicks	c	3	1	1		
Correa <td>ss</td> <td>2</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>Sanchez<td>3b</td><td>3</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td></td><td></td></td>	ss	2	0	0	Sanchez <td>3b</td> <td>3</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td></td> <td></td>	3b	3	0	0		
Warrick <td>dh</td> <td>4</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>Gregorius<td>ss</td><td>3</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td></td><td></td></td>	dh	4	0	0	Gregorius <td>ss</td> <td>3</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td></td> <td></td>	ss	3	0	0		
Chirinos <td>c</td> <td>4</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>Ursula<td>3b</td><td>3</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td></td><td></td></td>	c	4	0	0	Ursula <td>3b</td> <td>3</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td></td> <td></td>	3b	3	0	0		
Marinez <td>2b</td> <td>2</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>Gardner<td>1f</td><td>3</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td></td><td></td></td>	2b	2	0	0	Gardner <td>1f</td> <td>3</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td></td> <td></td>	1f	3	0	0		
Reddick <td>ph</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	ph	1	0	0							
Diaz <td>ph</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	ph	1	0	0							
Totals <td><td>32</td><td>1</td><td>0</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td>	<td>32</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	32	1	0							
					Totals	29	4	5	4		
					100	000	000	000	1		
					400	000	000	000	0		
					LOB—Houston 9, New York 11, 2B—Torres (5), HR—LeMahieu (2), Hicks (1).						
					IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	
Houston					Verlander 1-1-2	7	5	4	0	0	9
Verlander						1	0	0	0	0	1
Paceo											
New York					Kahle 1-1	6	4	1	4	9	
Paxton 0-1						1/3	1	0	0	1	0
Britton 1-3						1/3	0	0	0	0	2
Chapman 5-2-2						1	0	0	0	0	2
VIP—Paxton.					T—2:59.	A—48,483					

Postseason 1-3 Comebacks

—Comebacks from 1-3 deficits in the postseason:

- 2016—Chicago (NL) 4, Cleveland (AL) 3
- 1985—Kansas City (AL) 4, St. Louis (NL) 3
- 1979—Pittsburgh (NL) 4, Baltimore (AL) 3
- 1968—Detroit (AL) 4, St. Louis (NL) 3
- 1966—New York (AL) 4, Milwaukee (NL) 3
- 1925—Pittsburgh (NL) 4, Washington (AL) 3
- x-1903—Boston (AL) 5, Pittsburgh (NL) 3

x-best-of-seven
American League Championship Series
2007—Boston 4, Cleveland 3
2004—Boston 4, N.Y. Yankees 3
1986—Boston 4, California 3
1985—Kansas City 4, Toronto 3
American League Championship Series
2012—San Francisco 4, St. Louis 3
1996—Atlanta 4, St. Louis 3

Calendar

November — Deadline for teams to make qualifying offers to their eligible former players who became free agents, fifth day after World Series.
November TBA — Deadline for free agency offers, 15th day after World Series.
Nov. 11-14 — General managers' meetings, 15th day after World Series.
Nov. 11 — Rookies of the Year announced.
Nov. 12 — Managers of the Year announced.

NFL



New Orleans Saints (5-1) at Chicago Bears (3-2)

AFN-Atlantic

10 p.m. Sunday CET, 5 a.m. Monday JKT

Series: Saints lead 15-13.

Last meeting: Saints beat Bears 20-12, Oct. 29, 2017.

Notes: Saints have won the past four in a row in the series. ... Saints QB Teddy Bridgewater completed 24 of 36 passes for 240 yards and a TD for a 94.7 rating in Week 6. He is 4-0 as a starter this year for the Saints and has won his past three starts against the Bears. CB Marshon Lattimore had three pass deflections and an interception last week. LB Demario Davis had 11 tackles in his only career game against the Bears. ... Bears rookie RB David Montgomery had his second career rushing TD in Week 5. WR Allen Robinson led the Bears with 7 receptions for 97 yards and 2 TDs in Week 5. He aims for his third game in a row with 7-plus catches and 75-plus receiving yards. QB Mitchell Trubisky is 8-2 with 19 TDs against 10 interceptions for a 91.8 rating in his past 10 starts at home.



Houston Texans (4-2) at Indianapolis Colts (3-2)

AFN-Atlantic

7 p.m. Sunday CET, 5 a.m. Monday JKT

Series: Colts lead 24-8.

Last meeting: Colts beat Texans 24-21, Dec. 9, 2018.

Notes: Colts have won 3 of the past 4 in the series. Colts QB Jacoby Brissett passed for 151 yards and rushed for a TD in Week 5 and aims for his third game in a row with 250-plus passing yards and 2-plus passing TDs. RB Marlon Mack had 132 rushing yards in Week 5. RB Nyheim Hines had 4 catches for a team-high 76 yards in Week 5. Had 9 catches for 63 yards and a career-high 2 TD catches in his last home meeting. Texans QB Deshaun Watson passed for 280 yards with a TD and 2 interceptions and rushed for 42 yards and 2 TDs last week. Reached 7,500 career passing yards in 2nd-fewest games (29) in NFL history. DE J.J. Watt had a sack in 3 of his past 4 games and is looking for third sack game in a row. S Tashaun Gipson is looking for his third game in a row with an interception.

Game capsules compiled from nflcommunications.com

WEEK 7 TELEVIEWED GAMES

MARQUEE MATCHUP

Baltimore Ravens (4-2) at Seattle Seahawks (5-1)

AFN-Sports2, 10:25 p.m. Sunday CET, 5:25 a.m. Monday JKT

SERIES RECORD: Seahawks lead 3-2.

Last meeting: Seahawks beat Ravens 35-6, Dec. 13, 2015.

RAVENS OFFENSE: Overall (2), RUSH (1), PASS (14).

RAVENS DEFENSE: Overall (13), RUSH (4), PASS (25).

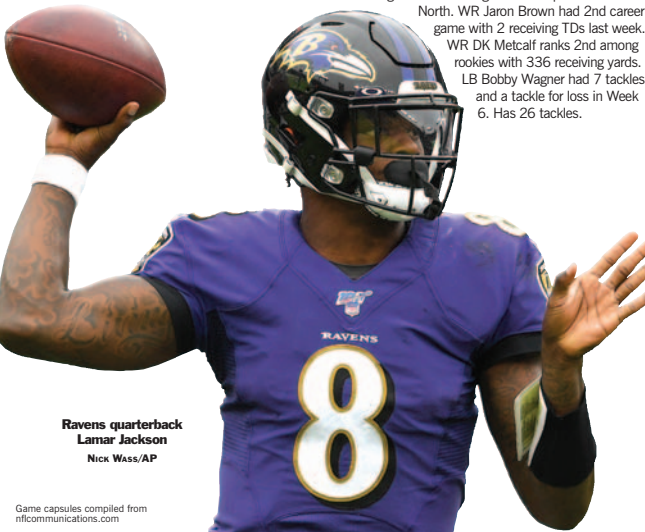
SEAHAWKS OFFENSE: Overall (7), RUSH (9), PASS (8).

SEAHAWKS DEFENSE: Overall (20), RUSH (11) PASS (23).

STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES: Ravens QB Lamar Jackson passed for 236 yards and rushed for a career-high 152 yards last week, the for fourth-most rushing yards by a QB in a single game in NFL history, including the playoffs. TE Mark Andrews had a team-high six catches for 99 and is aiming for his third game in a row with five or more catches. WR

Willie Snead had 6 catches for 56 yards in only career game vs. Seattle on Oct. 30, 2016. WRs Marquise Brown and Miles Boykin are only pair of rookie teammates with more than two TD catches each in 2019. CB Marlon Humphrey had two pass deflections and an interception last week. CB Maurice Canady had a pass deflection and a team-high 9 tackles in Week 6. S Earl Thomas has pass deflections in 3 of past 4 games on the road. LB Tyus Bowser aims for third game in a row with a sack. LB Matt Judon had a sack and has had a sack in past 2 of 3 games on the road. ... Seahawks QB Russell Wilson passed for 295 yards and two TDs with no interceptions for a 117.6 passer rating. He is 137-for-189 with 1,704 yards and 14 touchdowns this season. RB Chris Carson had a career-high 159 scrimmage yards and a TD last week. WR Tyler Lockett led team with 75 receiving yards in Week 6. Had 6 catches for 104 yards and 2 TDs in last meeting. Has 4 receiving TDs in his past 5 vs. AFC

North. WR Jarrold Parker had 2nd career game with 2 receiving TDs last week. WR DK Metcalf ranks 2nd among rookies with 336 receiving yards. LB Bobby Wagner had 7 tackles and a tackle for loss in Week 6. Has 26 tackles.



Ravens quarterback
Lamar Jackson
Nick Wass/AP



Philadelphia Eagles (3-3) at Dallas Cowboys (3-3)

AFN-Sports2

2 a.m. Monday CET, 9 a.m. JKT

Series: Cowboys lead 65-51.

Last meeting: Cowboys beat Eagles 29-23, Dec. 9, 2018.

Notes: QB Carson Wentz passed for 306 yards with 2 TDs vs. interceptions for 94.4 rating last week, his 15th career game with 300-plus passing yards. He has 10 TDs with 1 interception in 5 career starts vs. Dallas. RB Jordan Howard has 5 TDs (4 rush, 1 receiving) in his past 4. Had 92 scrimmage yards in only career game vs. Dallas in 2016 while with Chicago. ... QB Dak Prescott passed for 277 yards and had rushing TD in Week 6. Has 20 rush TDs since 2016, most by QB. RB Ezekiel Elliott had 152 scrimmage yards (105 rush, 47 receiving) and a rushing TD last week. Has 13 games with 150-plus scrimmage yards and 22 games with 100-plus rushing yards since entering NFL in 2016, both most among RBs. LB Leighton Vander Esch is aiming for his 4th game in a row with 9-plus tackles.



Oakland Raiders (3-2) at Green Bay Packers (5-1)

AFN-Sports

7 p.m. Sunday CET, 2 a.m. Monday JKT

Series: Packers lead 7-5.

Last meeting: Packers beat Raiders 30-20, Dec. 15, 2015.

Notes: Raiders QB Derek Carr completed 25 of 32 passes (78.1%) for 229 yards and 96.5 rating in Week 5. Rookie RB Josh Jacobs had a career-high 123 rushing yards and 2 rushing TDs in Week 5. S Erik Harris aims for his third game in a row with 6-plus tackles and a pass deflection. Packers QB Aaron Rodgers passed for 263 yards with 2 TDs and an interception for a 90 rating last week. RB Jamaal Williams had 138 scrimmage yards (104 rush, 32 receiving) and his fourth career TD catch in Week 6, his second career game with 100-plus rushing yards. LB Preston Smith ranks third in the NFL with 7 sacks in 2019. LB Blake Martinez leads the NFL with 346 tackles since 2017. CB Jaire Alexander leads the NFL with 10 pass deflections this season.

EXPANDED STANDINGS

American Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	Div
East									
New England	6	0	0	1.000	190	48	3-0-0	3-0-0	4-0-0
Buffalo	4	1	0	.800	90	70	1-1-0	3-0-0	3-1-0
N.Y. Jets	4	0	0	.200	63	123	1-2-0	0-2-0	0-3-0
Miami	0	5	0	.000	42	180	0-4-0	0-1-0	0-3-0
South									
Houston	4	2	0	.667	162	134	2-1-0	2-1-0	3-0-0
Indianapolis	3	2	0	.600	113	115	1-1-0	2-1-0	2-2-0
Jacksonville	2	4	0	.333	117	131	1-2-0	1-2-0	2-2-0
Tennessee	2	4	0	.333	98	92	0-2-0	2-2-0	1-4-0
North									
Baltimore	2	4	0	.667	184	140	1-2-0	2-1-0	3-2-0
Cleveland	2	4	0	.333	120	154	0-3-0	2-1-0	2-1-0
Pittsburgh	2	4	0	.333	123	131	1-2-0	1-2-0	2-2-0
Cincinnati	0	6	0	.000	97	159	0-2-0	0-4-0	0-3-0
West									
Kansas City	5	2	0	.714	202	150	1-2-0	4-0-0	4-2-0
Oakland	3	2	0	.600	103	123	1-2-0	1-1-0	2-1-0
L.A. Chargers	2	4	0	.333	120	118	1-3-0	1-1-0	2-3-0
Denver	2	5	0	.286	112	136	1-3-0	1-2-0	2-3-0

National Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	Div
East									
Dallas	3	3	0	.500	153	114	2-1-0	1-2-0	2-2-0
Philadelphia	3	3	0	.500	161	149	2-1-0	1-2-0	2-3-0
N.Y. Giants	2	4	0	.333	111	169	1-2-0	1-2-0	2-2-0
Washington	1	5	0	.167	90	167	0-3-0	1-2-0	0-4-0
South									
New Orleans	5	1	0	.833	128	122	3-0-0	2-1-0	3-1-0
Carolina	4	2	0	.667	166	133	1-2-0	3-0-0	2-2-0
Tampa Bay	2	4	0	.333	173	185	0-3-0	2-1-0	2-4-0
Atlanta	1	5	0	.167	135	186	1-0-0	0-4-0	2-2-0
North									
Green Bay	5	1	0	.833	142	115	3-1-0	2-0-0	4-1-0
Minnesota	4	2	0	.667	150	93	3-0-0	1-2-0	3-2-0
Chicago	3	2	0	.600	87	69	1-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0
Detroit	2	2	1	.500	119	118	1-1-0	1-1-1	1-1-1
West									
San Francisco	5	0	0	1.000	147	64	2-0-0	3-0-0	2-0-0
Seattle	5	1	0	.833	165	146	2-1-0	3-0-0	2-1-0
L.A. Rams	3	3	0	.500	153	154	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-3-0
Arizona	2	3	1	.417	134	171	1-2-1	1-1-0	1-2-1

ALSO ON AFN

Minnesota Vikings (4-2) at Detroit Lions (2-2), AFN-Sports 2, 7 p.m. Sunday CET; 2 a.m. Monday JKT

New England Patriots (6-0) at New York Jets (1-4), AFN-Sports2, 2 a.m. Tuesday CET; 9 a.m. Tuesday JKT

■ Check myafn.net for the most up-to-date TV listings.

REST OF THE SCHEDULE

Miami (0-5) at Buffalo (4-1)
Arizona (2-3) at N.Y. Giants (2-4)
L.A. Rams (3-2) at Atlanta (2-4)
Jacksonville (2-4) at Cincinnati (0-6)
Jacksonville (5-0) at Washington (1-5)
Chargers (2-4) at Tennessee (2-4)
Open: Tampa Bay, Cleveland, Carolina, Pittsburgh

SPORTS



Taking care of business

Fields, Dobbins lead No. 4 Ohio State past Northwestern » College football, Page 27

NBA

Something to prove

Pistons hope for big things behind trio of aging stars

By NOAH TRISTER
Associated Press

DETROIT

Blake Griffin was asked to recall the early stages of Derrick Rose's career, when the dynamic point guard won an MVP for the Chicago Bulls at age 22.

"His run in Chicago was special," Griffin said. "I don't want to say it caught us off guard, because it was kind of a natural progression for him, but everything he did was at a higher level than anybody else. He was great for the game of basketball — is great for the game of basketball."

The Detroit Pistons are hoping Griffin was right to use the present tense after signing Rose as a free agent this offseason.

Now 31, Rose is far removed from his days as an MVP, but the Pistons saw enough upside to bring him in. Detroit also added 38-year-old Joe Johnson.

The Pistons now have the top picks from the 2008 and 2009 drafts in Rose and Griffin. Rose, Griffin and Johnson have combined for 16 All-Star selections, although the last time they made it at the same time was in 2012.

How this trio will do in 2019 is anyone's

SEE BIG ON PAGE 27

From left:
Detroit Pistons
Derrick Rose,
Joe Johnson,
and Blake
Griffin

AP photos

Yanks fend off Verlander, Astros to force Game 6 » MLB playoffs, Page 30