Families mourn 2 Green Berets killed in Afghanistan

By Phillip Walter Wellman, Wyatt Olson and Corey Dickstein
Stars and Stripes

The two Green Berets killed in combat in Afghanistan on Wednesday are being remembered by their unit, and mourned very differently by their families.

The family of Master Sgt. Jose J. Gonzalez, 35, of La Puente, Calif., requested that the Army not release further information about him, U.S. Army Special Operations Command said. But the family of Master Sgt. Luis F. Deleon-Figueroa, 31, publicly grieved his death in numerous social media posts.

Deleon-Figueroa’s uncle shared photos of him as a child and in his dress uniform. His nephew, from Chicopee, Mass., had enlisted in the Army over 13 years ago to “go and be somebody,” Robert Figueroa recalled during a phone interview in which he audibly choked up.

SEE GREEN BERETS ON PAGE 3
Toxic chemicals discovered in groundwater at USAF academy

By Ellie Mulder
The (Colorado Springs, Colo.) Gazette

Groundwater at the Air Force Academy in Colorado is contaminated with the same toxic chemicals polluting a southern El Paso County aquifer, expanding a problem that has cost tens of millions of dollars to address in the Pikes Peak region.

Plans are underway to begin testing drinking water wells south of the academy in the Woodmen Valley area after unsafe levels of the chemicals were found at four locations on base, the academy said Thursday.

It was unclear Thursday evening how many people and wells could be impacted.

The discovery of perfluorinated compounds at the academy opened a new front in the region’s battle against chemicals that have fouled an aquifer serving more than 64,000 people just 20 miles to the south, outside Peterson Air Force Base.

Also, it threatened to push the price tag to remove the chemicals from drinking water here ever higher, beyond the $50 million spent by the Air Force.

On Thursday, Fran Silvia-Blayney, an advocate with the Sierra Club, decried yet more contamination by the chemicals at the academy.

“Just don’t have systems in place to address remediation,” Silvia-Blayney said.

Air Force officials stressed that drinking water at the academy wasn’t affected — the base is supplied by Colorado Springs Utilities, which has not detected the chemicals in its water.

Utilities customers south of the academy should not have detectable exposure to the chemicals, said Dave Padgett, the utility’s chief environmental officer.

Unclear, however, is whether residents in that area are using private wells for drinking water and if the wells are contaminated.

Lt. Col. Tracy Bunko, an academy spokeswoman, pledged relief for anyone affected.

“Bottom line, we will do everything we can immediately to ensure people have safe drinking water,” including providing bottled water, Bunko said.

Four sites on the academy were found to have chemical levels higher than an Environmental Protection Agency lifetime health advisory of 70 parts per trillion, said Michael Kucharek, another academy spokesman. He declined to name the location of those sites.

An August 2018 Air Force report, however, suggested four possible test sites during such an inspection: the academy’s fire training area; a fire station and a spray test area; an airfield spray test area; and the academy’s wastewater treatment plant and nonpotable reservoir.

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The Air Force officials said the site inspection report detailing the academy’s contamination would be made available Friday.

The toxic, man-made chemicals have been used for decades in a military firefighting foam prized for its ability to snuff petroleum fires. They also have been used in myriad nonstick household products, including fast-food wrappers and carpet cleaners.

The chemicals number in the thousands. More recently, government agencies have referred to them with the more inclusive term of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS.

The discovery brings to at least four the number of sites in Colorado affected by the chemicals, including firefighting sites in Boulder and Adams counties.

And it brings to 203 the number of Air Force sites polluted by the chemicals.

By far the largest area affected in Colorado — as well as the nation — stretches for miles southwest from Peterson Air Force Base past Fountain. The base was home to a regional training area where a toxic firefighting foam was used since the early 1970s.

There, firefighters sprayed foam on the ground and used it in an unlined training pit. More recently, the foam was used in a training area that flushed into Utilities’ wastewater treatment plant, which is unable to remove the chemicals. That effluent was then flushed into Fountain Creek.

Military diving drills
Top: Instructors from the U. S. Air Force Combat Dive Course test students on one-man drills at Naval Support Panama City, Fla., earlier this month. The instructors teach qualified candidates how to become proficient military divers in support of naval, joint and allied operations. Above: An instructor signals to a student during the underwater training. The instructors are a mix of both active-duty and civilians with extensive experience in military diving.
Prosecutors: Marine failed to unload gun

By PAUL DUGGAN
The Washington Post

QUANTICO, Va. — A fatal shooting in January at the Marine Barracks on Capitol Hill occurred because a Marine guarding the gun vault was unable to unload his pistol after a guard shift, then pointed the weapon at a fellow Marine and pulled the trigger as a joke, unaware that a bullet was in the firing chamber, a prosecutor said Thursday.

Lance Cpl. Andrew Johnson, charged with unpremeditated murder and several offenses related to his service, was arrested at the hearing, appeared at a preliminary hearing in a courtroom on the Marine base here. A military judge has not yet ruled on whether the evidence against him is sufficient to warrant a court-martial.

The victim of the New Year’s Day shooting, Lance Cpl. Riley Kuznia, 20, from Karlstad, Minn., was “my friend, my brother,” Johnson said in a brief statement to the judge. “I live every day with what happened, and I’ll live with it every day for the rest of my life.”

Addressing the outcome of the case, Johnson, from Plymouth, Mass., has been assigned to unman-

Addressing the court, the prosecutor, Marine Capt. Brendan McKenna, described “an escalation of misconduct” by Johnson last fall and winter in which he allegedly brandished his Marine-issued Beretta pistol recklessly on two occasions before the unintentional fatal shooting.

After a duty shift, guards at the Marine Barracks are required to unload their sidearms in the presence of a supervisor to ensure that the guns are rendered safe, McKenna said.

First, he said, the 15-round clip is removed from the pistol. Then the slide is pulled back, ejecting the bullet from the firing chamber, leaving the weapon empty.

Shortly before 5 a.m. on Jan. 1, after finishing a tour of guard duty, Johnson unloaded his Beretta alone rather than wait for a supervisor to watch him, McKenna said.

Lance Cpl. Riley Kuznia, above, from Karlstad, Minn., was killed when another Marine, Lance Cpl. Andrew Johnson, fired his weapon at him, allegedly as a joke. Prosecutors said Johnson didn’t unload his weapon before the shooting.

Risk: Report says Chinese-made tech is a common risk for all branches of the military

FROM FRONT PAGE

For example, Army and Air Force officials used the equivalent of government credit cards to buy more than 9,000 Lenovo products last year, despite the fact the company has been a hacking target for Chinese spies, posing a cyber espionage risk.

Both sides have both signaled they are unwilling to conduct counterterrorism operations with the Taliban, but the US military has a condition at which Taliban officials insisted the Taliban negotiate with the central Afghan government, forcing the Taliban to consider a deal.

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US: Israel bombed Iraq militia depot belonging to Iran

By Lolita Baldor and Josef Federman
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israel was responsible for the bombing of an Iranian weapons depot in Iraq last month, U.S. officials have confirmed, an attack that would mark a significant escalation in Israel’s yearslong campaign against Iranian military entrenchment across the region.

The confirmation comes as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is strongly hinting that this country is behind recent airstrikes that have hit bases and munitions depots belonging to Iran-backed paramilitary forces operating in Iraq.

The mystery attacks have not been claimed by any side and have left Iraq’s Baghdad government scrambling for a response amid strong speculation that Israel may have been behind them. Earlier this week, the deputy head of the Iraqi Shi’ite militias, known collectively as the Popular Mobilization Forces, openly accused Israeli drones of carrying out the attacks, but ultimately blamed Washington and threatened strong retaliation for any future attack.

Such attacks are potentially destabilizing for Iraq and its fragile government, which has struggled to remain neutral amid growing tensions between the United States and Iran.

Former Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, known for his strong allegiance to Iran, warned of a “strong response” if it is proven that Israel was behind the recent airstrikes in Iraq.

In statements issued by his office on Friday, he also said that if Israel continues to target Iraq, the country “will transform into a battlefield that drags in multiple countries, including Iran.”

There have been at least three explosions at Iraqi Shi’ite militia bases in the past month. American officials now confirm Israel was responsible for at least one of them.

Two American officials said Israel carried out an attack on an Iranian weapons depot in July that killed two Iranian military commanders. The U.S. officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter with the media.

The July 19 attack struck a militia base in Amirli, in Iraq’s northern Salaheddin province, causing a huge explosion and fire.

A senior official with the Shi’ite militias at the time told The Associated Press that the base housed advisers from Iran and Lebanon — a reference to the Iranian-backed Lebanese Hezbollah group. He said the attack targeted the headquarters of the advisers and a weapons depot.

Iranian media reported a funeral for a “shrine defender” named Abolfazl Sarabian the following day, which typically denotes someone fighting in Iraq and Syria.

On Aug. 12, a massive explosion at the al-Saqr military base near Baghdad shook the capital, killing four and wounding 28 others. The base housed a weapons depot for the Iraqi federal police and the PMF. The most recent of the explosions came Tuesday night, at a munitions depot north of Baghdad.

There have been weeks of speculation in Israel that the army is attacking targets in Iraq.

In an interview with a Russian-language TV station on Thursday, Netanyahu indicated the speculation is true.

Syrian TV says Assad’s troops now in control of northern Hama countryside

By Zeina Karam
Associated Press

BEIRUT — Syrian President Bashar Assad’s forces seized control of a string of villages in the northern countryside of Hama province, completing their takeover of the formerly rebel-held region just south of Idlib province for the first time since 2012, Syrian state TV and a war monitoring group said Friday.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights also reported Friday that government troops were in control of the entire northern Hama countryside after capturing a series of towns and villages.

The fate of Turkish troops manning the observation post wasn’t immediately clear. Since a deal with Russia last year, Turkey has maintained 12 such posts in and around Idlib province. Turkey is a strong backer of the Syrian opposition and rebels fighting Assad’s forces, while Russia supports Assad’s government.

The Observatory said it was not clear whether there were any Turkish soldiers remaining in the area. Turkey maintains an observation post, but “we do not have any encircled soldiers.”

He appealed for a political solution to the long-running Syria crisis that would put an end to more displacement and allow for the safe return of Syrian refugees. Turkey hosts about 3.6 million Syrian refugees and is concerned that the fighting in Idlib is causing a surge of displacement toward Turkey.

Syria’s foreign ministry has repeatedly denounced Turkey’s support for the Syrian opposition and its violation of the truce efforts.

Turkey has been trying to press the Syrian government in a series of talks as tensions rise along the border in the north.

On Friday, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said that the situation in Syria with Russia’s Vladimir Putin, telling his Russian counterpart that violations of the cease-fire in Idlib is pushing the “humanitarian crisis” toward Erdogan’s office.

The Turkish leader also told Putin that the attacks were harming efforts for a resolution of the Syrian conflict and posing a “serious threat” to Turkey’s security.

Syrian troops, backed by Russian air cover, had laid siege to rebel-held villages in the central province of Hama earlier this week following rapid advances.

Idlib, near the Turkish border, is the last major rebel-controlled province in Syria. Insurgents there have suffered a series of setbacks over the past three weeks in the face of a stepped-up government offensive in the country’s northwest.

Yemeni government forces rout separatists from southern city

Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen — Forces loyal to Yemen’s internationally recognized government have taken full control of a key southern city after overnight clashes with separatists, Yemeni security officials said Friday.

Clashes over Ataq, the capital of oil-rich Shabwa province, erupted late Thursday night and lasted until Friday morning, said the security officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

The city of Ataq was previously divided between Saudi-backed President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi’s government forces and a separatist militia trained and armed by the United Arab Emirates.

The fighting between Hadi’s forces and the UAE-backed separatists — ostensibly allies in Yemen’s war against the Shiite Houthis rebels — erupted earlier this month. It has threatened to fracture the Saudi-led coalition, a group of Arab states that intervened in Yemen’s civil war in 2015 to help restore Hadi’s government to power.

In a tweet posted early Friday, Hani Ben Braik, a separatist leader, would not admit defeat at Ataq but said his militiamen chose not to pursue a battle in the city out of “respect” for the truce efforts.

Members of a militia group loyal to Yemen’s President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi sit next to their tank, guarding a major intersection in Aden, Yemen.
FBI takes down $46M Nigerian fraud ring

By Stefanie Dazio
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The relationship between a Japanese woman and a U.S. Army captain stationed in Syria started online, through an international social network for digital pen pals. It grew into an internet romance over 10 months of daily emails.

It ended with the woman $200,000 poorer and on the verge of bankruptcy after borrowing money from her sister, ex-husband and friends to help Capt. Ferry Garcia — with his plan to smuggle diamonds out of Syria.

In reality, there were no diamonds and there was no Garcia — they were part of an elaborate scam hatched by an international ring of cyber thieves operating mainly out of Los Angeles and Nigeria.

Federal authorities cited the case of the Japanese woman, known only as “F.K.” in court papers, on Thursday when they announced an indictment charging 80 people with stealing at least $46 million through various schemes that targeted businesses, the elderly and anyone susceptible to a romance scam. Most of the defendants are Nigerians.

“We believe this is one of the largest cases of its kind in U.S. history,” U.S. Attorney Nick Hanna told a news conference. “We are taking a major step to disrupt these criminal networks.”

The investigation began in 2016 with a single bank account and one victim, said Paul Delacourt, assistant director in charge of the FBI’s Los Angeles office. It grew to encompass victims who were targeted in the U.S. and around the world, some of whom like the Japanese woman, lost hundreds of thousands of dollars.

“The defendant is extremely depressed and angry about these losses,” the federal complaint states. “She began crying when discussing the way that these losses have affected her.”

Her relationship began innocently in March 2016 with an email but soon “Garcia” made “romantic overtures,” according to federal authorities. He told her they couldn’t talk by phone because he wasn’t allowed to use one in Syria.

So a stream of emails went back and forth, with her using Google to translate his English into her Japanese. A month into the relationship, Garcia told her he’d found a bag of diamonds in Syria but he began introducing her to his associates, starting with a Red Cross representative who told her Garcia had been injured but had given him the box.

F.K. ultimately made 35 to 40 payments, receiving as many as 10 to 15 emails a day directing her to send money to accounts in the U.S. and in the Philippines. Kind dom through the captain’s many purported associates.

The fraudsters even threatened her with arrest if she didn’t continue to pay and at one point she traveled to Los Angeles because she was told a Russian bank manager had embezzled more than $33,000 of her funds.

Authorities arrested 14 defendants Thursday, mostly in the Los Angeles area. FBI agents could be seen processing suspects in a downtown Los Angeles parking lot before they were arraigned in federal court. It was not immediately known if they had attorneys who could speak on their behalf.

Moulton drops out of presidential race

By Robert Costa
The Washington Post

Rep. Seth Moulton, D-Mass., right, hugs Democratic N.H. state Rep. Wendy Thomas at the Hillsborough County Democrats Summer Picnic in Greenfield, N.H., on Sunday. Moulton was the third presidential candidate to drop out of the race this week.

Moulton announced his candidacy for president, "I am ending my campaign for president," Moulton said in remarks prepared for delivery in San Francisco on Friday at the Democratic National Committee’s summer meeting. “Though this campaign is not ending the way we hoped, I am leaving this race knowing that we raised issues that are vitally important.

Moulton argued that his veterans-focused campaign challenged President Donald Trump “where he’s weakest, as commander in chief,” and worked to “take back patriotism from the Republican Party.”

Moulton follows Washington Gov. Jay Inslee and former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper, two Democrats who shuttered their bids for the White House in recent days as the nomination contest moves toward the fall — and as the DNC imposes stricter requirements for a spot at upcoming debates.

Billionaire David Koch, conservative donor, dies

By Steve Peoples
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Billionaire industrialist David H. Koch, who with his older brother Charles transformed American politics by pouring their riches into conservative causes, has died at age 79.

Charles Koch announced the death on Friday, saying, “It is with a heavy heart that I now must inform you of David's death.”

David Koch, who lived in New York City, was the Libertarian Party's vice presidential candidate in 1980. He was a generous donor to conservative political causes as well as national, medical and cultural groups.

The Koch brothers were best known for a vast political network they built that became popularly known as the ‘Kochtopus’ for its far-reaching tentacles in support of conservative causes. The brothers founded the anti-tax, small-government group Americans for Prosperity.

“I was taught from a young age that involvement in the public discourse is a civic duty,” David Koch wrote in a 2012 op-ed in the New York Post. “Each of us has a righ — indeed, a responsibility, at times — to make his or her views known to the larger community in order to better form the public opinion of what it is we want to get from the exchange of ideas betters the nation in the process.”

After battling prostate cancer for 20 years, he told a reporter following the 2012 Republican primaries that he was thinking about what he will someday leave behind.

“I don’t like to engage where my part makes a difference,” he told The Weekly Standard. “I have a point of view. When I pass on, I want people to say he did a lot of good things, he made a real difference, he saved a lot of lives in cancer research.”

David Koch donated $100 million in 2007 to create the David H. Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He also gave millions to Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City, the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, and other institutions.

The Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History in his hometown is dedicated to the story of human evolution over 6 million years. David Koch donat ed $15 million to fund the 15,000 square-foot hall.

“The program has the power to influence the way we view our identity as humans, not only today, but for generations to come,” he said in a statement at the time.

David Koch, an engineer trained at MIT, joined Koch Industries in 1970, and served on its board. He also served as chief executive officer of Koch Chemical Technology Group, LLC, a Koch subsidiary. He retired from the company in 2018.

Charles and David Koch, each with an estimated net worth of $50.5 billion, tied in fourth place in 2012 on Forbes 500 list of the nation’s richest men.

Two of the Koch brothers, Frederick and Bill, added the other two, claiming in a 1998 trial that they were cheated out of more than $1 billion when they sold their stake in Koch Industries back in 1983. David and Bill Koch are twins.
United States unveils final plan for Utah monument

By Brady McCombs

SALT LAKE CITY — The U.S. government’s final management plan for land in and around a Utah national monument that President Donald Trump downsized doesn’t include many new protections for the cliffs, canyons, waterfalls and arches found there, but it does include a few more safeguards than were in a proposal issued last year.

The Bureau of Land Management’s plan for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in southwestern Utah codifies that the lands cut out of the monument will be open to mineral extraction such as oil, gas and coal as expected, according to a plan the agency provided to The Associated Press.

The agency chose an option that doesn’t add any areas of critical environmental concern, increases lands open to cattle grazing and could raise royalties and fees for “adverse effects” on lands and resources in the monument, the document said.

At the same time, the agency tweaked the plan last year to call for new recreation management plans to address impacts on several highly visited areas, opens fewer acres to ATVs and mixes a plan that would have allowed people to collect some non-dinosaur fossils in certain areas inside the monument.

The agency also determined that no land will be sold from the 1,345 square miles cut from the monument. Last year, Interior Department leaders rescinded a plan to sell 2.5 square miles of that land after it was included in the draft management proposal and drew backlash from environmentalists.

Conservation and paleontology groups vehemently opposed the downsizing of the monument and have lawsuits pending challenging the move. Those groups criticized the plan’s lack of land protections and consider the plan a waste of taxpayer resources, saying the government should not have acted until the lawsuits are resolved.

Bryan Barber, Grand Staircase-case’s acting manager, said in an interview with the AP that the plan reflects changes made after considering input from the public, an assessment that enough protections are in place already, and the voices of all different groups who use the lands. Monument visitation has increased 63% over the last decade, with 1.1 million people visiting through September 2018, according to U.S. government figures.

“There are people who graze livestock, people that like to hunt, people that like to hike, people that like to trail run,” said Bar- ber, who is working at the monument since it was created. “We’re trying to be fair.”

He pushed back against the notion that the lands now outside the monument will be left abandon- ed, saying the lands are still subject to rules and policies like all federally managed land.

Interest in oil, gas and coal has been growing in recent years, but the Trump administration is opposing Washington’s efforts to boost domestic production of natural gas and coal as expected, according to a plan the government’s activities in the way Washington is trying to do here.”

The Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, Wash., the Trump administration has opposed efforts to pay detainees minimum wage for the work.

The state insists that these federal immigration detainees are ‘employees’ under state law, even though it simultaneously exempts similarly-situated detainees in state facilities from the minimum wage,” the Justice Department said. “Basic constitutional principles prevent a State from interfering with the federal government’s activities in the way Washington is trying to do here.”

The Northwest Detention Center is a 1,575-bed facility, one of the nation’s largest privately-run immigrant detention centers. On any given day, about 470 of them perform some sort of work through a voluntary program, earning $1 per day. GEO has the authority to pay more, but Congress will only reimburse it up to that amount.

Washington argues it is entitled to enforce the minimum wage law against GEO just as it’s entitled to enforce it against any other company. The law does exempt state prisons from paying inmates for work, but it doesn’t do the same for private detention centers, it says.

Further, the state says, GEO’s contract with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement requires the detainee work program to comply with all applicable labor laws — including Washington’s minimum wage law, since GEO is in a clear employer-employee relationship with the detainees.

“While we are happy to continue working with GEO, their decision to cut corners is unacceptable,” said Maria Rearick, Washington’s assistant attorney general.

The state has agreed to reconsider it and other arguments and set a hearing for Sept. 12.

“The State insists that these federal immigration detainees are ‘employees’ under state law, even though it simultaneously exempts similarly-situated detainees in state facilities from the minimum wage,” the Justice Department said. “Basic constitutional principles prevent a State from interfering with the federal government’s activities in the way Washington is trying to do here.”

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“The Trump Administration apparently thinks the for-profit, private company that runs Northwest Detention Center should be above the law,” Ferguson said in an emailed statement. “Despite President Trump’s position, GEO must comply with Washington law and either pay the detainees that run its facility minimum wage or pay minimum wage to Washington workers to do the job.”

It’s “not a free-for-all,” Barber said. “That seems to be what we hear a lot, people feeling like now anybody can go out and do anything they want to do on these lands. But, they need to realize that we still have our rules and policies.”

But to Steve Bloch, legal director at the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance conservation group, it’s unforgivable to cut the monument in half and downgrade the excluded lands into what he calls “garden variety public lands.”

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Arm of DOJ sends brief with link to anti-Semitic post

By Colleen Long and Michael Balsamo
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department’s immigration arm sent judges a morning news briefing including a link that included a post from a virulently anti-immigration website that also publishes work by neo-Nazis.

The post by VDARE featured links that directly attacked immigration judges with racially tinged slurs and a specific anti-Semitic reference about Jews and power, according to a letter sent Thursday by judges’ union President Ashley Tabbaro to James McHenry, the director of the Executive Office for Immigration Review at the Justice Department.

It was distributed to all 440 immigration judges across the country earlier this week, along with other stories from The Washington Post and CNN Radio. The inclusion of the post was first reported by BuzzFeed.

Assistant Press Secretary Kathryn Mattingly said the daily morning news briefings are compiled by a contractor and the brief with link to the post should not have been included.

“The Department of Justice continues to prioritize the strongest terms,” she said.

VDARE is an anti-immigration website founded and edited by Peter Brimelow. He also operates a Connecticut-based nonprofit, VDARE Foundation, that raised nearly $4 million between 2007 and 2015, according to IRS filings.

Brimelow has denied his website is white nationalist but has acknowledged it publishes works by writers who fit that description. “In the sense that they aim to defend the interests of Americans,” Brimelow told an Associated Press reporter.

Congress has been blunt in criticizing the government-run system envisioned by Sanders.

In Nevada, the early voting swing state that tests presidential candidates’ appeal to labor and a diverse population, moderate Democrats have won statewide by focusing on health care affordability and preserving protections from President Barack Obama’s controversial Affordable Care Act instead of replacing it with Medicare for All.

The survey by the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation found 59% would prefer Medicare for All if it was the only way to achieve that.

But, “I don’t think we can ever get it passed,” Dietrich added.

Erin Cross, 54, Dietrich’s daughter and also a Democrat, said she’s not comfortable with switching to a system in which people and government share responsibility.

She thinks it’s important that everyone has health care, not just those who can afford it. She said she would support Medicare for All if it was the only way to achieve that.

While “Medicare for All” remains hugely popular among voters, to come on over just to get rid of Trump,” she said.

Democratic presidential candidates also have expressed skepticism.

California Sen. Kamala Harris’ new plan would preserve a role for private insurance. New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker is open to step-by-step approaches. Meanwhile, health care moderates including former Vice President Joe Biden have been blunt in criticizing the government-run system envisioned by Sanders.

Terrie Dietrich, left, and her daughter, Erin Cross, talk in Dietrich’s home in Henderson, Nev., on Thursday, Dietrich and Cross, both Democrats, disagree when it comes to a “Medicare for All” plan.

Democratic voters take a look at a practical health care approach

By Michelle L. Price and Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Democratic voters appear to be reassessing their approach to health care, a pragmatic shift on their party’s top 2020 issue.

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The survey by the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation found 39% would prefer Medicare for All. Majorities of Democrats and moderates concurred.

On a separate question, Democratic support for Medicare for All was a robust 72% in July, but that was down from 80% in April, a drop Kaiser says is statistically significant.

Nonetheless, she noted a common interest among Democrats: “People want affordable, reliable, stable coverage.”

Trump abandons plan to push for $4 billion cut to foreign aid projects

By Kevin Freking
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Facing bipartisan opposition, President Donald Trump has scrapped an effort to cut some $4 billion in foreign aid that lawmakers had already approved.

A senior administration official and a Democratic congressional aide confirmed the decision Thursday. Both spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations.

The potential cut to programs at the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development had drawn criticism from Republicans and Democrats. The administration official said it was clear that many on Capitol Hill weren’t willing to join in “curbing wasteful spending.”

Since taking office, the Trump administration has sought each year to slash foreign aid to pay for other priorities, but was thwarted by Republicans and Senate Democrats.

The president told reporters Sunday he backed the cuts, saying that, “in some cases, these are countries that we should not be giving to.” He also said foreign aid cuts can lead to talks that improve relationships.

The top members of the House Foreign Affairs and Senate Foreign Relations committees had sent a letter to the White House Office of Management and Budget seeking to head off such a move. They said cutting “crucial” programs would be detrimental to national security and undercut Congress’ intended use for the money.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said in a statement that the proposed cuts would have been “harmful to our national security and violated the good-faith negotiations that brought about the bipartisan budget deal.

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PHOENIX — Construction crews broke ground Thursday on a small portion of the border fence project in the Arizona desert that is funded through President Donald Trump’s national emergency declaration.

Crews plan on installing 30-foot steel fencing to replace older barriers on 2 miles in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, next to the official border crossing known as the Lukeville Port of Entry.

The project is funded through the Defense Department. Use of the department’s money was previously frozen by lower courts while a lawsuit proceeded. But the U.S. Supreme Court earlier this month cleared the way for the use of about $2.5 billion.

A border wall is a major part of the president’s election campaign. Congress this year allocated $1.4 billion, but the president wanted much more. He declared a national emergency in February and faced legal challenges for plans to build dozens of miles of fencing almost immediately.

In Arizona, critics have sued over some of the construction contracts, saying the government unlawfully waived dozens of laws to be able to build on protected lands. They say a wall — and construction for it — would be detrimental to wildlife habitat. The case before the federal court is pending.

“It’s astonishing and sad to see Trump’s border wall being built through the most spectacular Sonoran desert ecosystem on the planet,” said Laiken Jordahl, borderlands campaigner with the Center for Biological Diversity.

Jordahl hoped the courts would step in to protect Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, where the construction is currently taking place.

The vast park is known for its oddly shaped cactuses that resemble an organ, and it’s decorated with hundreds of saguaros as well. Signs all along the park warn visitors that they may encounter smuggling activity. Until about five years ago, large swaths of the park were closed to the public due to dangerous conditions and following the 2002 shooting death of Kris Eggle, 29, a park ranger who died while pursuing suspected drug cartel members.

Thursday’s groundbreaking was on a portion of fencing that stretches west from the Lukeville Port of Entry, an official border crossing. Border Patrol spokesmen Jesus Vasvibaso said. That’s the port many Arizona residents pass on their way to the Mexican beach destination commonly known as Rocky Point.

Crews there have been clearing brush and removing the old fencing in preparation for the installation of the bollards all week.

Construction is expected to take about 45 days, according to court documents filed last week.

The government plans to then tackle two other projects in Arizona, including nearly 40 miles of fencing in other parts of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument and in the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, and a smaller project at the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area. The two other projects are slated for early October.

The projects come as immigrant apprehensions have fallen sharply over the last two months. The high summer temperatures usually result in fewer people attempting to cross, and Mexican authorities have been clamping down on immigrants traveling north through the country.

But people still try their hand in this rugged, extremely hot desert area, where in June a 6-year-old Indian girl died after attempting to walk the desert with her mother, who was uninjured. The girl was found about 17 miles west of Lukeville and died of hyperthermia, heat stroke and exhaustion.

Basketball legend Bob Cousy is awarded Medal of Freedom

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump presented basketball legend Bob Cousy, 91, with the Presidential Medal of Freedom on Thursday, praising the Boston Celtics star as “one of the all-time greats in the history of sports.”

Cousy played for the Celtics from 1950 to 1963, winning six league championships and the 1957 MVP title. The Bob Cousy Award, given to the country’s best point guard in men’s college basketball, is named for him. He is a member of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame and played a pivotal role in founding the NBA Player’s Association.

After hanging up his No. 14 jersey, the 13-time NBA All-Star went on to coach basketball at Boston College.

“This acknowledgment allows me to complete my life circle,” Cousy said during the Oval Office awards ceremony. “I can stop chasing a bouncing ball. The Presidential Medal of Freedom allows me to reach a level of acceptance in our society I never once ever dreamed of.”

Trump spoke of Cousy’s childhood during the Great Depression and discovering his talent for basketball at a young age. The president said Cousy never forgot his first mentor’s advice to never be predictable, and jokingly added: “Hey, I’ve heard that lesson, too.”

The president recognized Cousy’s accomplishments on and off the court, lauding his support for underprivileged young athletes and speaking out against racism.

Cousy, who is white, ardently supported his black teammates who faced discrimination during the civil rights movement. Still, Cousy lamented in Gary Pomerantz’s biography, “The Last Pass: Cousy, Russell, the Celtics, and What Matters in the End,” that he didn’t do more for his black teammates, including 2011 Medal of Freedom recipient Bill Russell.

The Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian honor, celebrates individuals for their “especially meritorious contributions to the security or national interests of the U.S., to world peace or to cultural or other significant public or private endeavors.”

Trump credited West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin for suggesting the medal be given to Cousy.

Cousy is the second Medal of Freedom recipient this year. Trump presented the award to golfer Tiger Woods in May.

Cousy is the 10th honoree under Trump, who is Cousy’s candidate of choice in the 2020 presidential election.
China issues tariff hike on $75B in US products

By Joe McDonald
Associated Press

BEIJING — China on Friday announced plans to raise duties on $75 billion of U.S. products in retaliation for President Donald Trump’s latest planned increase, deepening a conflict over trade and technology that threatens to tip a weakening global economy into recession.

The new tariffs, on 5,208 items ranging from fish to intercontinental ballistic missiles, will go into effect Sept. 1, China’s Finance Ministry said. They will hit nearly all U.S. exports to China, the world’s second-largest economy.

Trump escalated “trade frictions” and is “seriously threatening the multilateral trading system,” an official from China’s Finance Ministry said. “China was forced to take countermeasures.”

China won’t sit by over US arms sale to Taiwan

By Christopher Bodeen
Associated Press

BEIJING — China “will not sit idly by” if the U.S. proceeds with a sale of advanced F-16V fighter jets to Taiwan, a senior Chinese army officer said Thursday while warning of other potential countermeasures in addition to punishing foreign firms involved in the deal.

Beijing considers the sale a violation of previous U.S. commitments to China regarding the island it considers its own territory to be annexed by force if necessary, Col. Chen Rongdi, chief of the Institute of War Studies at the Academy of Military Sciences, said. He did not elaborate on what additional measures China might take.

“China will not sit idly by,” Chen said at a forum sponsored by China’s official journalists’ association. “Of course, we don’t rule out additional measures.”

Beijing has repeatedly said it will levy sanctions against U.S. companies linked to a planned $8 billion sale and demanded Washington cancel it immediately.

China has made such threats regarding previous arms sales by the U.S., but they’ve had limited effect because the companies involved are either important to China’s own nascent commercial aviation industry or have little or no business with the country.

Most recently, China pledged sanctions against the U.S. in July when the Trump administration said it was considering a $2.2 billion sale of tanks and air missiles to Taiwan.

The United States, Europe, and Japan have deteriorated.

North Korea calls Pompeo ‘poisonous’ and ‘brazen’

By Hyung-jin Kim
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea’s foreign minister on Friday called U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo a “poisonous plant of American diplomacy” who hampers efforts to restart nuclear negotiations on Friday.

North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho called Pompeo a “poisonous plant of American diplomacy” who hampers efforts to restart nuclear negotiations on Friday.

Ri said he couldn’t just let the “reckless remarks” by Pompeo pass by him because they came amid a possible restart of the nuclear talks. Ri said Pompeo is a “brazen” man because he “had begged for” North Korean demobilization and improved bilateral ties when he visited Pyongyang and met leader Kim Jong Un several times.

In April, North Korea demanded President Donald Trump move Pompeo from the nuclear negotiations.

Ri said North Korea is ready for both dialogue and confrontation. But he warned that North Korea will try to remain “America’s biggest threat” if the United States continues to confront the North with sanctions.

Japan: S. Korea ending intel deal damages trust

By Kaori Hitomi
Associated Press

TOKYO — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said South Korea’s decision to end intelligence-reception deals with Japan is a “poisonous plant” that erodes trust, and he urged the United States to stay out of the thorny issue.

Abe said at a news conference Friday that Seoul’s decision to cancel a naval intelligence deal because Tokyo’s intelligence pact with South Korea is not a “mutual trust” that Tokyo had hoped to strengthen.

South Korea announced Thursday it will terminate the intelligence deal because Tokyo’s decision to downstage South Korea’s preferential trade status had caused a “grave” change in the security cooperation between the two countries. It said the decision to end the deal is a “regional sign” of the changing global order.

South Korea’s decision to end intelligence-reception deals with Japan is a “poisonous plant” that erodes trust, and he urged the United States to stay out of the thorny issue.

But South Korea’s Supreme Court last year ruled that the deal did not cover individual rights to seek reparations and has ordered compensation for victims of forced labor under Japan’s colonial rule.

South Korea’s decision on the military intelligence pact came as a surprise to many and underlined how much relations with Japan have deteriorated.

Senior South Korean presidential official Kim Hyun-chong on Friday defended the government’s decision. He told reporters that “there is no longer any justification” for South Korea to continue the deal because of Japan’s claim that basic trust between the countries has been undermined.

South Korea has accused Japan of weaponizing trade to punish it over a separate dispute linked to Japan’s 1910-1945 colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula. It said it will review the deal when Tokyo revises its rules on chemical trade. Japan denies any retaliation.

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The bilateral arrangements between the relevant sides should be in favor of regional peace and stability and the peace process of the peninsula. It should not harm the interests of any third parties, ” Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said in a daily briefing.

South Korea’s Supreme Court on Friday ruled that the deal did not cover individual rights to seek reparations and has ordered compensation for victims of forced labor under Japan’s colonial rule.

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Japan: S. Korea ending intel deal damages trust
Putin orders response to US missile test

By Vladimir Isachenkov
Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered the Russian military Friday to work out a quick pro quo response after the test of a new U.S. missile banned under a now-defunct arms treaty.

In Sunday’s test, a modified ground-launched version of a Navy Tomahawk cruise missile accurately struck its target more than 310 miles away. The test came after the U.S. and Russia withdrew from the 1987 Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty.

The U.S. said it withdrew from the treaty due to Russian violations, a claim that Moscow has denied. Speaking Friday, Putin charged that the U.S. waged a “propaganda campaign” alleging Russian breaches of the pact to “untie its hands to deploy the previously banned missiles in different parts of the world.”

He ordered the Defense Ministry and other agencies to “take comprehensive measures to prepare a symmetrical answer.”

The Russian leader noted that last Sunday’s test was performed from a launcher similar to those deployed at a U.S. missile defense site in Romania. He argued that such a facility and a prospective similar site in Poland could also be loaded with missiles intended to hit ground targets instead of interceptors.

Putin has pledged that Russia wouldn’t deploy the missiles previously banned by the treaty before the U.S. does that first, but he noted Friday that the use of the universal launcher means that a covert deployment is possible.

“How would we know what they will deploy in Romania and Poland — missile defense systems or strike missile systems with a significant range?” Putin said.

Russia long has charged that the U.S. launchers loaded with missile defense interceptors could be used for firing surface-to-air missiles. A recent test has proven that the U.S. denials have been false.

Canada halts staff’s Hong Kong travel

By Kelvin Chan
Associated Press

HONG KONG — Accountants in Hong Kong marched Friday in support of the pro-democracy movement, while the Canadian Consulate banned its staff from leaving the city on official business after a French consulate employee was detained in mainland China.

The head of the cabin-crew union for Hong Kong airline Cathay Dragon said she had been fired in retaliation for supporting the movement, adding to the chill in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory.

Demonstrators were planning to form 25 miles of human chain Friday night to show their resolve. They said the “Hong Kong Way” was inspired by the “Baltic Way,” when people in the Baltic states joined hands 30 years ago in a protest against Soviet control.

The Canadian Consulate didn’t say whether the travel restriction on local staff was related to the detention of the British Consulate employee, Simon Cheng Man-kit.

He went missing two weeks ago after going on a business trip from Hong Kong’s high-speed rail terminal to Shenzhen.

“At present, locally engaged staff will not undertake official business travel outside of Hong Kong,” the consulate said.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said China respects Canada’s decision, but countered it with a Confucius quote: “A gentleman is open and poised; a petty man is unhappy and worried.”

Geng elaborated that those who are “above board” will have their rights guaranteed in China, while people with “an ulterior motive to engage in illegal activities” may have to be “extremely cautious.”

Canada resident Vladimir Putin ordered Russia to respond to a U.S. missile test.

Macron faces tough task as G-7 mediator

By Sylvie Corbet
Associated Press

PARIS — French President Emmanuel Macron hosts the G-7 summit this weekend fresh off a meeting with Russia’s Vladimir Putin, hoping to maintain his image as a global mediator at a time of deep political and economic insecurity in the world and despite President Donald Trump’s open disdain for multilateral talks.

So far, Macron’s had little to show for his efforts and many are skeptical about any concrete G-7 outcome amid the diverging views of Europe and the United States.

Trump and other leaders of the Group of Seven nations will meet Saturday for three days in the southwestern French resort town of Biarritz. France holds the 2019 presidency of the G-7, which besides the U.S. also includes Britain, Canada, Germany, Italy and Japan.

Macron is a strong advocate of multilateralism to resolve the world’s crisis. The task won’t be easy.

The French president appears to have given up hopes of influencing Trump, who has withdrawn the U.S. from the landmark 2015 Paris climate agreement, pulled the country out of the 2015 nuclear accord with Iran and pushed aggressive “America First” trade policies with China, Europe and others.

Making matters more difficult, France may not be able to rely on its European partners this year, with Britain focused on Brexit, Italy’s coalition government collapsing this week and key German ally, Chancellor Angela Merkel, weakened at home by dissensions in her governing coalition.

Major disagreements between the U.S. and others are likely to appear on trade, climate change and global tax policy. Leaders will also discuss ways to combat inequalities in the world, fight terrorism, encourage digital development and help Africa’s Sahel region, which is threatened by extremism.

Another French diplomat said that due to American positions blocking united actions, France and the G-7 nations will be seeking input from other allies.

“If we could get India to adopt the G-7 priorities on climate, that G-7 would be useful,” the diplomat said.
HANOI, Vietnam — Australia and Vietnam on Friday expressed serious concern over tensions in the disputed South China Sea, where Hanoi says China’s gas survey ship has infringed on its territory and has disrupted Vietnam’s exploration activities.

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison met in Hanoi with his counterpart, Nguyen Xuan Phuc, and both leaders called for respect of international law and freedom of navigation.

Earlier, the United States said it was deeply concerned that China is continuing to interfere with Vietnam’s longstanding oil and gas activities in Vietnam’s exclusive economic zone. China claims the South China Sea virtually in its entirety and has deployed a survey vessel with armed escorts into waters off Vietnam, ignoring Hanoi’s calls to leave the area.

The growing threat to what some call “the lungs of the planet” has ignited a bitter dispute about who is to blame during the tenure of a leader who declaración Brazil’s rainforest protections as an obstacle to economic development.

The president’s defiance came as its own federal experts reported a record number of wildfires across the country this year, up 84% over the same period in 2018. Satellite images show smoke from the Amazon reaching across the Latin American continent to the Atlantic coast and Sao Paulo, Brazil’s biggest city, according to the World Meteorological Organization.

On Thursday, Bolsonaro said there was a “very strong” indication that some non-governmental groups could be setting blazes in retaliation for losing state funds under his administration. He did not provide any evidence.

Bolsonaro, who won election last year, also accused media organizations of exploiting the fires to undermine his government.

“Most of the media wants Brazil to end up like Venezuela,” he said, referring to political and economic turbulence in the neighboring South American country.

London-based Amnesty International blamed the Brazilian government for the fires, which have escalated international concern over the vast rainforest, whose degradation could have severe consequences for global climate and rainfall.

Citing Brazil’s apparent lack of commitment to fighting deforestation, Germany and Norway have decided to withhold more than $60 million in funds earmarked for sustainability projects in Brazil’s forests.

Search for Polish cavers becomes retrieval mission

WARSAW, Poland — Rescuers in Poland say they are turning their search operation for two spelunkers into a retrieval of bodies after the remains of one of them have been found in a narrow passage in a cave.

The two Polish cavers went missing over the weekend in the uncharted parts of the Wielka Sniezna cave in the Tatra Mountains. Rescuers found the body of one of them late Thursday and presume the other is also dead.

The head of the Tatra emergency service, Jan Krzysztof, said Friday the operation will focus on widening a narrow passage to allow for the bodies to be recovered.

Many rescuers are involved in search and rescue for people hurt by a sudden thunderstorm that hit the Tatras on Thursday, killing five and injuring over 150 people.

The thunderstorm, which witnesses described as occurring on a day that began with clear weather, produced an unimaginable emergency in the popular trekking region, said Jan Krzysztof, head of the TOPR Tatra emergency service.

“This is a situation that can be compared to a terrorist attack,” Krzysztof said. “A large group of random people has been hit. Many people, including children. Burnt, with broken legs, wounds all over their bodies.”

He said rescuers on Friday were checking the slopes of the popular Giewont peak, which rises 6,214 feet high, for three people who have not returned.

Officials said the lightning storm killed four people in Poland, including two children, and a Czech tourist in neighboring Slovakia. Officials said 34 people remained hospitalized. Friday in Zakopane, Krakow and other locations.

Krzysztof said the massive mountain rescue action involved five helicopters and “went beyond” any scenario that his team had ever faced.

The Tatras, part of the Carpathian mountain range, are the highest mountains in Poland and in Slovakia and attract tourists from near and far with scenic lakes and peaks that soar to 8,710 feet.

Thursday’s lightning strikes were the worst accident in the Tatras since August 1937, when lightning killed four people on Giewont. Tourist Grzegorz Pyzel told TVN24 he was halfway up Giewont peak with his wife in clear weather when suddenly they heard thunder and thought it was a jet overhead.

“But soon lightning struck and we turned back. Suddenly it started pouring and you could hear thunder roaring from every possible direction,” Pyzel said.

The couple reached a shelter at the foot of the mountain and soon others started coming in, saying there were injured people.
By DAVID RISING and SETH BORENSTEIN
Associated Press

TASILAQ, Greenland — From a helicopter, Greenland’s brilliant white ice and dark mountains make the desolation seem to go on forever. And the few people who live here — its whole population wouldn’t fill a football stadium — are poor, with a high rate of substance abuse and suicide.

One scientist called it the “end of the planet.”

When U.S. President Donald Trump floated the idea of buying Greenland, it was met with derision, seen as an awkward and inappropriate approach of an erstwhile ally.

But it might also be an Aladdin’s Cave of oil, natural gas and rare earth minerals just waiting to be tapped as the ice recedes.

The northern island and the rest of the Arctic aren’t just hotter due to global warming. As melting ice opens shipping lanes and reveals incredible riches, the region is seen as a new geopolitical and economic asset, with the U.S., Russia, China and others wanting in.

“An independent Greenland could, for example, offer basing rights to either Russia or China or both,” said Fen Hampson, head of the international security program at the Centre for International Governance Innovation think tank in Waterloo, Ontario, noting the desire by some there to secede as a semiautonomous territory of Denmark.

“I am not saying this would happen, but it is a scenario that would have major geopolitical implications, especially if the Northwest Passage becomes a transit route for shipping, which is what is happening in the Russian Arctic.”

In April, Russian President Vladimir Putin put forward an ambitious program to reaffirm his country’s presence in the Arctic, including efforts to build ports and other infrastructure and expand its icebreaker fleet. Russia wants to stake its claim in the Arctic as the ice has melted, making it easier to navigate.

Strategically, Greenland forms part of what the U.S. views as a key corridor for naval operations between the Arctic and the North Atlantic. It is also part of the broader Arctic region, considered strategically important because of its proximity to the U.S. and economically vital for its natural resources.

The melting of the Greenland ice sheet creates uncertainty and danger for offshore oil and gas developers, threatening rigs and ships. “All that ice doesn’t suddenly melt; it creates icebergs that you have to navigate around,” said Victoria Herrmann, managing director of the Arctic Institute, a nonprofit focused on Arctic security.

On the other hand, while mining in Greenland has been expensive due to the environment, development costs have fallen as the ice has melted, making it more attractive to potential buyers, she said.

Strategically, Greenland forms part of what the U.S. views as a key corridor for naval operations between the Arctic and the North Atlantic. It is also part of the broader Arctic region, considered strategically important because of its proximity to the U.S. and economically vital for its natural resources.

Hampson noted it was an American protectorate during World War II when Nazi Germany occupied Denmark, and the U.S. was allowed to build radar stations and rent-free bases on its territory after the war. That includes today’s Thule Air Force Base, 745 miles south of the North Pole.

After the war, the U.S. proposed buying Greenland for $100 million after flirting with the idea of swapping land in Alaska for parts of the Arctic island. The U.S. also thought about buying Greenland 80 years earlier.

Trump “may not be as crazy as he sounds despite his ham-fisted offer, which clearly upset the Danes, and rightly so,” Hampson said.

Greenland is part of the Danish realm along with the Faeroe Islands, another semiautonomous territory, and has its own government and parliament. Greenland’s 56,000 residents got extensive home rule in 1979, but Denmark still handles foreign and defense policies, with an annual subsidy of $670 million.

Its indigenous people are not wealthy, and vehicles, restaurants, stores and basic services are few.

Trump said Sunday he’s interested in Greenland “strategically,” but its purchase is “not No. 1 on the burner.”

Although Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen called Trump’s idea to purchase Greenland an “absurd discussion,” prompting him to call her “nasty” and cancel an upcoming visit to Copenhagen, she also acknowledged its importance to both nations.

“The developments in the Arctic region call for further cooperation between the U.S. and Greenland, the Faeroe Islands and Denmark,” she said. “Therefore, I would like to underline our invitation for a stronger cooperation on Arctic affairs still stands.”

Greenland is thought to have the largest deposits outside China of rare earth minerals used to make batteries and cellphones.

Such minerals were deemed critical to economic and national security by the U.S. Interior Department last year, and as demand rises, “deposits outside of China will be sought to serve as a counterbalance to any market control that could be exerted by a single large producer,” said Kenneth Medlock, senior director at the Center for Energy Studies at Rice University.

Off Greenland’s shores, the U.S. Geological Survey estimates there could be 17.5 billion undiscovered barrels of oil and 148 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, though the remote location and harsh weather have limited exploration. Around the Arctic Circle, there’s potential for 90 billion barrels of oil.

Only 14 offshore wells were drilled in the past 40 years, according to S&P Global Analytics. So far, no oil in exploitable quantities has been found.

“It’s very speculative, but in theory, they could have a lot of oil,” said Michael Lynch, president of Strategic Energy & Economic Research Inc. “It’s perceived as being the new Alaska, where the old Alaska was thought to be worthless and turned out to have huge reserves. And it’s one of the few places on Earth that’s lightly populated, and it’s close to the U.S.”
Saturday, August 24, 2019

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Powell: Fed will help, but no hint on rates

By Martin Crutsinger
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell said Friday that President Donald Trump’s trade wars have complicated the Fed’s ability to set interest rate policies but offered no clear signal about further interest rate cuts.

Speaking to a gathering of central bankers in Jackson Hole, Wyo., Powell reiterated that the Fed “will act as appropriate” to sustain the expansion — phrasing that analysts see as suggesting rate cuts. But the Fed chairman didn’t give financial markets explicit guidance on whether or how many rate cuts might be coming the rest of the year.

The Fed cut rates last month for the first time in a decade, and financial markets have baked in the likelihood of more rate cuts this year.

The outlook for the U.S. economy, Powell said, remains favorable but continues to face risks. He pointed to increasing evidence of a global economic slowdown and suggested that uncertainty from Trump’s trade wars has contributed to it.

Powell’s speech comes against the backdrop of a vulnerable economy, with the financial world seeking clarity on whether last month’s rate decision likely marked the start of a period of easier credit.

The confusion only heightened in the days leading to the Jackson Hole conference, at which Powell gave the keynote address. Minutes of the Fed’s July meeting released Wednesday showed that although officials voted 8-2 to cut their benchmark rate by a quarter-point, there was a wider divergence of opinion on the committee than the two dissenting votes against the rate cut had indicated.

The minutes showed that two Fed officials favored a more aggressive half-point rate cut, while some others adopted the polar opposite view: They felt the Fed shouldn’t cut rates at all.

The minutes depicted the rate cut as a “mid-cycle adjustment,” the phrase Powell had used at his news conference after the rate cut.

That wording upset traders who interpreted the remark as suggesting that the Fed might not be preparing for a series of rate cuts to support an economy that’s struggling with a global slowdown and escalating uncertainty from President Donald Trump’s trade war with China.

There was even a difference of opinion among the Fed members who favored a rate cut, the minutes showed, with some concerned most about subpar inflation and others worried more about the threats to economic growth.

Comments Thursday from Fed officials gathering in Jackson Hole reflected the committee’s sharp divisions, including some reluctance to cut rates at least until the economic picture changes.

“I think we should stay here for a while and see how things play out,” said Patrick Harker, the president of the Fed’s Philadelphia regional bank.

Esther George, president of the Fed’s Kansas City regional bank and one of the dissenting votes in July, said, “While I see downside risk, I wasn’t ready to act on that relative to the performance of the economy.”

George said she saw some areas of strength, including very low unemployment and inflation now closer to the Fed’s target level.

Robert Kaplan, president of the Fed’s Dallas branch, indicated that he might be prepared to support further rate cuts.

If “we are seeing some weakness in manufacturing and global growth, then it may be good to take some action,” Kaplan said.

EXCHANGE RATES

Euro costs (Aug. 26) ..........$1.1355
British pound (Aug. 26) .......1.25
Japanese yen (Aug. 26) .......104.00
South Korean won (Aug. 26) ...1,183.00

Commercial rates
Bahrain (Dinar) ..................0.3770
British pound (Dinar) .........1.2215
Canada (Dollar) ..................1,3320
China (Yuan) .....................1.3982
Denmark (Krone) ..............6.5426
Egypt (Pound) ...................6.2741
Euro ..................$1.1054/0.9047
Hong Kong (Dollar) .........7.7544
Hungary (Forint) ...............297.35
Israel (Shekel) .................1.3193
Japan (Yen) .....................105.52
Kuwait (Dinar) .................0.3042
Korea (Won) ....................9.0052
Norway (Krone) ...............9.3442
Philippines (Peso) .............52.44
Poland (Zloty) .................3.95
Singapore (Dollar) ..........1.3987
South Korea (Won) .........1,313.64
Switzerland (Franc) ...........0.9860
Thailand (Baht) ...............50.72
Turkey (Lira) ................5.7672

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate ........................5.25
Discount rate ......................3.00
Federal funds market rate .......2.18
3-month bill ........................1.94
30-year bond........................3.10

MARKET WATCH

Aug. 22, 2019
Dow Jones Industrials ..........49,51
Nasdaq composite ............26,252.24
Standard & Poor’s 500 .......7,991.39
Russell 2000 ..................2,922.95

WEATHER OUTLOOK

The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.
Explosion of portable toilets being examined

RI WESTERLY — The Rhode Island fire marshal is offering a $5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of whoever is responsible for blowing up a pair of portable toilets last weekend.

The first explosion happened at about 12:30 a.m. Saturday at a residential construction site in Westerly.

The second incident occurred in a private parking lot in Charlestown. Police said a fisherman heard an explosion at about 11 p.m. Saturday, but the damage was not reported until Sunday morning.

There were no reports of injuries in either explosion.

Woman dies in car crash trying to avoid dogs

NY NIAGARA FALLS — New York State police said a woman who swerved to avoid hitting two dogs on an upstate highway died after her vehicle struck the animals, overturned and ejected her.

Police said Georgette Potter, 46, of North Tonawanda, was pronounced dead at the scene on I-190 in Niagara Falls early Thursday morning.

Investigators said Potter wasn’t wearing a seatbelt in the Jeep Wrangler at the time of the collision.

2 hippos to return home after ‘vacation’

MO SPRINGFIELD — Two hippo sisters are getting ready to return to their newly remodeled home in Colorado after spending nearly two years at a Missouri zoo.

The Springfield zoo’s spokeswoman, Joey Powell, said the sisters were originally just supposed to spend a year in Missouri because the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo in Colorado Springs needed a place to put them while it created a new habitat.

The Springfield zoo had space for the sisters, named Zambezi and Kasai, because its beloved hippos in either explosion.

Falmouth, Mass., on June 23.

Staying hydrated

A worker stops to take a drink while he and his co-workers replace a roof on a house on Virginia Avenue in Charleston, W.Va., on Tuesday.

Andrew Myers, 18, is accused of jumping off the Anna C in Block Island, R.I., on July 28. No home towns were provided.

The Coast Guard said the act of intentionally jumping into the water from a passenger vessel is considered interfering with the safe operation of the vessel and carries a fine of up to $35,000.

Man charged in death of overboard friend

NJ LAKE HOPATCONG — A man who allegedly was operating a boat while under the influence of alcohol or drugs has been charged in the death of his friend who went overboard and drowned in northern New Jersey earlier this month.

Morris County prosecutors said Nicholas Zarantonello, 24, of Lake Hopatcong, is charged with death by vessel.

Zarantonello was operating a pontoon boat on Lake Hopatcong on Aug. 3 with two passengers on board. One of them, Jason Gil, 24, of Mount Arlington, somehow went overboard and disappeared. His body was found two days later.

Man convicted of aiding in roommate’s suicide

MA BOSTON — The Coast Guard in Boston is warning about the dangers and potential penalties of jumping off ferries.

The Coast Guard in a statement Wednesday said it has proposed fines of up to $5,500 each to two teenagers who they said jumped over ferry railings in New England waters this summer.

They said Luke Garrity, 18, jumped off the Island Queen in Falmouth, Mass., on June 23.

THE CENSUS 40

The number of jobs being cut by Nestle at an ice cream distribution center in Fort Wayne, Ind., is a new model of delivery. The Springfield News-Leader reported that the hippos came to the Dickerson Park Zoo in Springfield, Mo., in October 2017 because the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo in Colorado Springs needed a place to put them while it created a new habitat.

Staying hydrated

More than 240 grams of cocaine were found in his vehicle had been mistakenly told that an ice cream plant and distribution center would close. Nestle says it’s switching to a warehouse model of delivery.

Nestle Dreyer’s Ice Cream said 40 jobs are being cut but a large workforce will remain in place. Spokeswoman Laura Davenport said the state of Indiana had been mistakenly told that an ice cream plant and distribution center would close.

Man charged says he found drugs in drive-thru

WA SEATTLE — What authorities describe as a homeless camp on the water has sunk.

KOMO-TV reported it may be a first for Seattle, a city plagued with homeless camps under highways, street corners, in green-belts and abandoned buildings.

The floating camp was made up of three boats rafted together and tied up illegally to a fishing net piling belonging to the Duwamish Tribe.

Two boats sank last week in the Duwamish Waterway while a third boat remained afloat.

How the boats sank is still being investigated by the Port of Seattle.

They were outside the federal waterway that’s the responsibility of the Coast Guard — so it’s under Port of Seattle jurisdiction.

Officials said the Coast Guard pumped out fuel and removed hazardous chemicals that were found on board.

Man pinned, killed in elevator accident

NY NEW YORK — Authorities said an elevator accident in a Manhattan high-rise apartment building killed a man who was apparently pinned between the elevator car and the shaft.

It happened around 8:30 a.m. Thursday in a high-end rental building on Third Avenue in the Kips Bay neighborhood.

Police and building inspectors are investigating. Police said from the preliminary information they have gathered, it appears that the 30-year-old man was trying to get out of the elevator when it continued going downward and trapped him.

Firefighters say other people in the elevator were helped to safety.
Team up with a friend or play solo in 1st modern co-op Wolfenstein adventure

By Christopher Byrd

Special to The Washington Post

In 2014, the Swedish development studio MachineGames pulled off one of the more distinguished revamps of this video game generation. Wolfenstein: The New Order injected fresh life into a series that had seen better days. It kicked-started the first-person shooter genre in the 1990s by combining the twitch combat that players expect with the kind of pensive writing one might find in a high-toned war movie. 2017’s wonderful Wolfenstein II: The New Colossus tweaked the formula by relaxing the difficulty curve of The New Order and doubling down on the narrative moments that provide excellent contrast to the Nazi-killing action which is a hallmark of the series.

Picking up 20 years after the events of the last game, Wolfenstein: Youngblood stars the twin daughters of the series hero, B.J. Blazkowicz, who take the fight against the Nazis to the streets of Paris. A few cutscenes notwithstanding, Youngblood (which was co-developed by Arkane Studios) doesn’t have the number of arresting narratives as The New Colossus. But, in a series first, its campaign is organized around co-op gameplay. This addition, while diverting, is not particularly rousing. Like so many big-budget video games, it’s nothing more than a safe bet.

The game opens with a quiet and effective scene set near Mesquite, Texas, in 1979. It shows Blazkowicz and his wife, Anya, rigorously training their young adult daughters, Jess and Soph, in the art of combat. The parents’ concern for their children is obvious as is the siblings affection for each other. The scene then cuts to the following year where, in Paris, Jess and Soph meet up with members of the French resistance.

The girls are looking for their father who mysteriously vanished but left behind clues that he’d traveled to the City of Lights on a secret mission. In exchange for helping to track down their father, the twins agree to run missions for the resistance against the Nazis. These assignments take them from a Zeppelin cross and recross many of the same areas and visit some sights, like a Nazi interrogation center, on different missions. Such backtracking didn’t grate much on me or my co-op partner because we had a decent time chit-chatting and shooting Nazis. We both found the girls sisterly camaraderie — their fist-bumps, dancing in elevators, and banter — bemusing, if a bit childish. If there was one design element that my friend and I singled out for commendation, it’s the game’s pep system. Pressing up on the control pad allows the sisters to rally each other with an encouraging word and a physical gesture, like a thumbs up. This system adds nicely to an atmosphere of mutual reliance.

Different peps can be purchased with in-game currency. Once my friend and I saved up for a pep that replenishes full health and armor we delighted even more in the tempo of the game. Although we never had too much trouble dancing through levels, we hit a couple of bottlenecks with the first two bosses which we steamrolled on our first attempt. But the final boss was a worthy opponent that took us several attempts to vanquish.

Wolfenstein: Youngblood provides a decent co-op experience for friends to indulge in. It’s like going to a place where you know the service is fine and you wouldn’t look for anything unusual.

Platforms: PlayStation 4, Xbox One, Nintendo Switch, PC

Online: bethesda.net/en/game/wolfenstein-youngblood
If filmmaking is a war, then “Apocalypse Now” was very nearly Francis Ford Coppola’s Waterloo.

The battles Coppola fought while making his 1979 epic nearly destroyed him. A typhoon wrecked a major set. Harvey Keitel was replaced by Martin Sheen. Coppola searched desperately for an ending. He worked even harder to coax a few lines out of Marlon Brando.

But out of that tumult Coppola created a masterpiece. And 40 years later, “Apocalypse Now” has never looked so good.

Coppola has supervised a 4K restoration of the film and, for the second time, tweaked the cut. Having perhaps gone too far in his 2001 “Redux,” which added 53 minutes, “Apocalypse Now Final Cut,” which opened in theaters Aug. 15 and will be released on home video Aug. 27, splits the difference at 183 minutes.

In its present and restored form, the majesty and madness of “Apocalypse Now” is more vivid and hallucinatory than ever. Coppola considers it the definitive version. It completes a four-decade journey turning what was almost a mess into the masterwork he envisioned from the start.

Coppola, 80, has lately been busy with equally audacious plans.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17
I once read that's not in the film reality involved. There was a line that related to the movie. It was drugs and it was rock 'n' roll, LA and it was surfing and it was somewhere. In "Apocalypse Now," it was a West Coast sensibility rather than an East Coast movie?

It would have been interesting to go back to your films and do something that then inspired you to do something that then inspired them. For one thing, I was terrified. For one thing, I was doing "The Godfather." I was Michael Corleone, Mafia. When I made "Apocalypse Now," I was the Godfather. When I was "Tucker," I was the innovative entrepreneur. The truth of the matter is all my life I have if I have ever had anything I've been enthusiastic and imaginative. I don't have talent that I wish I had. My talent was more enthusiasm and imagination and a kind of prescient sense, a sense of knowing what's going to happen before it happens. Other than that, my talent is limited.

Robert Duvall is pictured in "Apocalypse Now Final Cut." Francis Ford Coppola said "Apocalypse Now" stood out from previous war movies because it was surfing and it was drugs and it was rock 'n' roll so it was more of a West Coast ambiance to the war.

Coppola, who previously tweaked his 1979 film by adding 53 minutes in 2001's "Apocalypse Now Redux," said "Apocalypse Now Final Cut" is the definitive version of the movie. It was a West Coast sensibility rather than an East Coast sensibility. In war movies before "Apocalypse," there was always a sort of aloof, Brooklyniac, an East Coast and Midwest personality. In "Apocalypse," it was LA and it was surfing and it was drugs and it was rock 'n' roll so it was more of a West Coast ambiance to the war.

In 2017, he published a book, "Live Cinema and its Techniquas," about his experiments and hopes for a new art form that combines cinema, television and theater in a live experience. He's also recently returned to a long delayed passion project, "Megalopolis," a sprawling sci-fi, New York-set epic. Coppola has been working on the various drafts, cutting, and searching for production partners. "Or maybe now it's at the stage I can do it by myself, I don't know," he said.

In a recent interview, Coppola spoke about "Apocalypse Now" the theatrical run of the movie was "terri-ified" after making it and why he has so much trouble letting go.

AP: You're talking about the theatrical version of "Apocalypse Now" missing some of the "weirdness" you wanted. What did you mean?

Coppola: In the 1979 version when it first opened, the various people who had sponsored it and were distributing it felt that it was too long and too weird. So we went through a tough period of trying to make it shorter and trying to make it appear more normal as opposed to "weird." So we took things out. Some of them were just 30 seconds long or a minute long but generally we were trying to make it shorter and less weird, which I guess is another word for "surreal." After it was clear the movie had survived — meaning, you never know when you make a movie if its opening is going to be the last you heard of it or it's going to have a life after that — I was looking at it on television and it didn't seem so weird or surreal. It stuck out less as something unusual. For that reason, people kept saying to me, "Maybe you should have put back what you took out."

Did you consciously want to put your stamp on the war movie? The Vietnam War was different than other American wars. It was a West Coast sensibility rather than an East Coast sensibility. In war movies before "Apocalypse," there was always a sort of aloof, Brooklyniac, an East Coast and Midwest personality. In "Apocalypse," it was LA and it was surfing and it was drugs and it was rock 'n' roll so it was more of a West Coast ambiance to the war.

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Don’t get duped

Tips on how to avoid buying fake dietary supplements

BY NASEEM S. MILLER
Orlando Sentinel

You probably have bought some type of supplement—maybe vitamins, herbs or probiotics—online or at a store. Maybe the doctor recommended it or maybe you heard that it’s good for you. But how can you tell what you’re buying, especially online, is the real thing? Not too long ago, Amazon alerted consumers who had purchased Align nutritional supplements from a certain seller that the product was most likely counterfeit and that they needed to stop using it, as reported by Wired. Align is a Procter & Gamble brand but a third-party merchant was selling counterfeit Align products on Amazon. Amazon pulled the product and is now selling only the genuine supplements, according to Wired.

There are a few things you can do to avoid fakes, and buy high quality supplements. One of them is a verification seal by the 200-year-old US Pharmacopeia, or USP. Also, when shopping online check who’s selling the product. On Amazon, for instance, the seller’s name is listed after the name of the product. John Atwater, senior director of verification program at USP, explained how the nonprofit works and what consumers should do to avoid dupes.

So how do you define supplements?

Dietary supplements contain dietary ingredients and are ingested. A dietary ingredient is defined as a vitamin, mineral, it could be a botanical, it could almost be anything under the sun. You might think of them as being more like a drug product rather than a food, but they are classified as a special form of food.

How are supplements regulated?

Dietary supplements fall under a set of regulations that are different from the conventional food and drug products. Dietary supplements are regulated by the Food and Drug Administration’s Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, under the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994, or DSHEA, which classifies dietary supplements as a special category of food.

Under DSHEA, supplement manufacturers and distributors are responsible for substantiating the quality and the safety of the ingredients they use. They are responsible for ensuring that product labeling meets all the requirements. However, dietary supplement manufacturers are not required to get FDA approval before producing or selling dietary supplements, nor are they required to demonstrate clinical efficacy as required for drug products.

So how do you know that what you’re buying is the real thing?

The best way for consumers to protect themselves is to ensure that they’re purchasing a quality supplement that has a verified mark like USP. That’s really important given the size and diversity of the products and ingredients and the rapid pace with which new dietary supplements are introduced into the market.

It’s also advisable for consumers to purchase the supplements from reputable outlets, whether it’s a retail store or the Internet. Because if you’re dealing with a reputable retailer, they’re going to be taking the necessary precautions to ensure that the products that they’re selling on their shelves are of good quality. And use your common sense. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Remember, there’s no low barrier of entry into the marketplace for supplements, unlike drugs. There are products out there that claim to be dietary supplements but they aren’t.

What does it take for USP to give its seal of approval to a supplement?

We’re a nonprofit scientific organization, and our standards are created based solely on science. Our primary mission is to establish standards of quality for drug products and dietary supplements and food ingredients. We have scientific experts and the standards that we use for dietary supplements go through the same rigorous process that quality standards for drugs that are created by USP go through. The only difference is that it’s mandatory for pharmaceutical drug companies to follow USP standards. In the case of dietary supplements, it’s optional.

In our program, companies have to validate testing methods to establish all of their claims on the label, not only for determining remedy but also the stability of those ingredients throughout the shelf life of the product.

We test the products for all specifications, for potency of ingredients, contaminants and performance of the products. We also review the product quality control and manufacturing documentation, which makes our program unique.

If companies pass all the tests and correct citations, we award them the right to use the USP mark. And then we enter the surveillance phase and go through the same tests on an annual basis.

What percentage of supplements have a seal like USP?

Unfortunately, a very small percentage. But we’ve verified hundreds of products and the verification program is getting more recognition in the marketplace, so we’ve got more demand for the program, so hopefully that number will eventually grow into thousands.

Check your supplements:

- USP: usp.org/dietary-supplements-herbal-medicines; quality-supplements.org
- Dietary Supplement Label Database: dsld.nlm.nih.gov/dsld
- Labdoor: labdoor.com
- Consumer Labs: consumerlab.com
- Examine: examine.com
- Educational Supplements Quality Collaborative: www.dsccollaborative.org
- LegitScript: legitscript.com
- Fight the Fakes: fightthefaques.org
Fans have watched John Goodman manage the goofy tribulations of the Conner family for 30 years — first on “Roseanne,” then on “The Conners.” And while he’s played everything from the King of England to a drug dealer, viewers have never seen Goodman’s latest incarnation.

The 67-year-old actor portrays a millionaire evangelist who doesn’t see the difference between greed and grace in “The Righteous Gemstones,” premiering Sept. 1 on AFN-Spectrum.

The Gemstones are a family of televangelists who reign over a megachurch and attract money like locusts in a wheat field. The show stars Goodman as the family patriarch, Danny McBride (who is also producer-writer-director) as Goodman’s elder son, Edi Patterson as his daughter, and Adam Devine as his younger son.

Goodman says he understands the fascination for such religious adoration. “When I was a child, I grew up in the Southern Baptist Church, and it was very emotionally involving,” he says.

“Anyway, I think that’s how they got me. It was a lot of splendor and screaming up at the pulpit. And the rhythms of the speech, and it’s something you wanted very badly to believe in. That’s basically what I remember about it. That, and I would get swatted if I didn’t go,” he says.

McBride, who produced and starred in “Eastbound & Down” and “Vice Principals,” shares a background as a Southern Protestant. “I grew up in a very religious household,” he says.

“I grew up going to the Baptist church. My mom did puppet ministry growing up. She ministered the children. I spent every Sunday, every Wednesday, every Saturday night at church. And a lot of my family is still very involved with the church. My aunt is a minister in Atlanta."

While the Gemstone family gleefully divvies up the proceeds, it’s not about skewering the faithful, insists McBride. “The goal of it is not to be like a takedown of anything,” he says.

“I do feel when Hollywood decides to take on religion, I think they make the deathly mistake of lampooning people for their beliefs, which is not something I’m really interested in doing. I don’t know enough about what I believe in order to go and pass judgment on other people,” he says.

“It’s about lampooning a hypocrite, lampooning somebody who presents themselves one way and does not act that way underneath,” says McBride.

McBride, who says he gets much of his inspiration from chatter on the internet, thinks some of the most profitable megachurches stretch in their efforts to involve the multitudes.

“Some of these megachurches, they just try to appeal to as many people as they can,” he says, “going so far in some instances that they even take down images of the cross or things that might turn people off. So, I think the Gemstones are the epitome of that. I think they’re trying to basically water everything down to not offend anyone and just to get as many people bringing money into the church as they can,” he says.

“So when I say that we’re not taking aim at people’s faith, I’m being honest. I’m not just saying it to try to shy away from controversy. It wasn’t a goal of mine. I wanted to make something that my aunt, who’s a minister, could watch and find the humor in as well.

“And I don’t think she’ll appreciate the language or the drug use, but I think ultimately, I’m not taking a swipe at her or what she believes in. I’m setting a story in a world that she is familiar with. And ultimately it’s a story about a family, and about a family who has grown very, very successful and have lost their way along the way. And I think that that’s relatable."
Vigilance doesn’t require keeping GIs in Afghanistan

BY ROBERT J. FELDMAN
Special to Stars and Stripes

T he next several weeks could very well determine whether the United States and the Taliban come to an arrangement on a diplomatic settlement. Thirteen months after the Trump administration initiated direct talks with the insurgency, U.S. envoy Zalmay Khalilzad has presented a plan to President Donald Trump that would include a phased withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan in return for several Taliban concessions, the most important being a commitment to ensure terrorist groups don’t use Afghan soil to launch attacks against the U.S.

As groundbreaking as such a development would be, we should be crystal clear about two things. First, any deal land between the U.S. and the Taliban won’t on its own generate peace in a country that has been dominated by war for four straight decades. And two, despite the fact that Afghanistan will continue to be a violent place, the benefits of a U.S. military withdrawal still outweigh the costs.

The decision in the summer of 2018 to launch a direct line of communications with the Taliban was a risky but bold move from a president who has long made clear his distaste for the 18-year military engagement in Afghanistan. While previous administrations have mulled direct discussions with Taliban leaders before, exploratory diplomacy was largely delayed or overtaken by an overabundant confidence that Washington could brook the insurrection into offering more concessions. A more intensive pace of military operations, however, is not necessarily effective against a group that has a rear-base of support in a neighboring country. As politically inexcusable as it may be, talking with the enemy was the crucial first step in exploring a way out of a military stalemate the American people have lost interest in paying for.

We don’t know for certain what the fine print of any U.S.-Taliban agreement will look like until the document is officially presented. But what can be stated with reasonable certainty is that any accord between these two stakeholders will not end the war in Afghanistan. This is not a peace negotiation as much as it is a deescalation negotiation, an opportunity for Washington to extricate itself militarily from a conflict that will enter its 19th year this October. For the majority of Americans, U.S. military disengagement has been long in the making for Afghans, it simply means that the war will take on a new form.

It is vital to be clear-eyed about the situation in front of us. With or without a deal, Afghanistan will remain one of the most violent countries on the planet. The grievances over power, wealth, religion and politics will persist, and after American forces are gone. Members of the Taliban who are opposed to dialogue with the Afghan government or the United States or who are simply irreconcilable are highly likely to find a new home, whether it be under the umbrella of Islamic State or under a new organization entirely. Regrettably, Afghans will also remain targets to the kind of ruthless, inhumane terrorism that occurred on Afghan soil the Independence Day, when 80 innocent people were killed in a suicide bombing at a wedding hall in Kabul. It is also highly likely that the Afghan security forces, already bloodied, overextended and struggling with retention, will lose more ground to the Taliban in the short term. As such, believe the Taliban will stop shooting during negotiations with the Afghan government is so unsubstantiated as to be called ignorant.

And yet despite all of this bad news, packing up and going home is still the best option for the United States. The available alternative — maintaining an extraordinary expensive status quo with no concrete end in sight — is no alternative.

The American people by and large are highly pragmatic. They know a bad investment when they see one. And for a long period of time, an indefinite conflict in Afghanistan has been the quintessential bad investment, a war that has resulted in the deaths of over 3,500 U.S. and coalition forces at a cost of over $750 billion. Living in the Midwest, it’s hard not to come to the unchallengeable conclusion that Americans find the entire adventure in Afghanistan as a foolish enterprise devoid of strategic thinking. Many want out yesterday. Others are rightly clamoring for other countries, particularly those in the immediate region, to step up and become far more involved in ensuring Afghanistan’s political stability. If there are any nations on the planet who have an incentive to prevent terrorist groups from running rampant across Kabul, Kandahar and Herat, it is Afghanistan’s neighbors — all of whom view Sunni extremism as a danger to their security. To put it bluntly: Domestic political support for a large, enduring U.S. troop presence and for additional deployments is scraping the bottom of the barrel.

There are also economic reasons for the U.S. to begin a drawdown. At roughly $45 billion a year, the war in Afghanistan is contributing to the very problem former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mike Mullen has termed “the most significant threat to our national security”: the national debt. At $22.5 trillion and counting — a figure roughly $3 billion larger than the entire U.S. GDP — the debt is a daily reminder of America’s looming fiscal crisis. Operating in a global strategic environment where competitiveness and rivalry are now at the center of U.S. national security strategy, Washington can no longer afford the types of endless expenditures that have defined the last 20 years of American statecraft. To carry on in Afghanistan without a plan for a military exit is precisely the kind of decision U.S. policymakers should take pains to avoid.

None of this is to say that terrorism doesn’t pose a threat to the American people. It most certainly does. ISIS and al-Qaeda remain active in many parts of the world. We got a glimpse of it last week, when an ISIS bomber penetrated Afghanistan’s capital and caused mayhem and grief for so many.

The United States must remain vigilant. This requires the maintenance of an extensive global intelligence network, cooperation with allies, partners and adversaries on the mutual threat terrorism represents, and the utilization of an uncontested offensive strike capability should terrorist groups in Afghanistan or anywhere else pose a direct threat to the American people.

What it doesn’t require is staying trapped in Afghanistan’s domestic politics or committing to the notion of a military presence at an enormous cost.

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**College football**

**Scores**

- Villanova at Toledo 21-20
- Youngstown St. vs. Samford at Montgomery 31-17
- Florida vs. Miami at Orlando, Fla. 31-10
- Arizona at Hawaii 26-24

**Tennis**

- **Bronx Open** Thursday at Cary Leeds Center
  - **First Round**
    - Women's Singles
    - Surfside Hard-Outdoor
      - **Round of 16**
        - Steve Johnson (U.S.) def. Casper Ruud (Norway), 6-4, 6-7 (5), 6-3
        - Denis Shapovalov (Canada) def. Fabio Fognini (Italy), 7-5, 6-2
        - Jared Donaldson (U.S.) def. Pierre-Hugues Herbert (France), 6-4, 6-1
        - Marco Cecchinato (Italy) def. Alexei Popyrin (Australia), 7-6 (4), 6-4
      - **Quarterfinals**
        - Katerina Siniakova (Czech Republic) def. Bernadett Pera, United States, 6-4, 6-7 (4), 6-1
        - Magda Linette, Poland, def. Karolina Muchova (Czech Republic), 6-4, 6-7 (4), 7-6 (4), 6-3
        - Carla Suarez Navarro (Spain) def. Alize Cornet, France, 6-2, 6-1
        - Mona Barthel (Germany) def. China def. Anna Blinkova, Russia, 6-3, 6-3
    - **Invitational**
      - **Final**
        - Zhejiang University (China) def. Boston College (U.S.), 4-1
      - **Consolation**
        - Florida Atlantic University (U.S.) def. Loughborough University (UK), 4-1

**College basketball**

- **St. Michael's College Basketball**
  - **First Round**
    - **Playoff Series**
      - **West**
        - Montana State at Bowling Green
      - **Southwest**
        - South
tate (Texas) at Texas A&M
      - **danger**
        - Arizona St. at St. Louis, Mo.
      - **Northeast**
        - Boston College at Hartford, Conn.

**Scores**

- **Men's Basketball**
  - **South**
    - San Jose at Seattle
  - **East**
    - Minnesota at Los Angeles FC

**Scores**

- **Women's Basketball**
  - **Midwest**
    - New Orleans vs. North Carolina
  - **South**
    - North Carolina vs. Tennessee
  - **East**
    - Duke vs. North Carolina

**Scores**

- **Men's Basketball**
  - **Midwest**
    - Georgia Tech at Clemson
  - **South**
    - Georgia at North Carolina
  - **East**
    - North Carolina at Duke

**Scores**

- **Women's Basketball**
  - **South**
    - University of Tennessee at Georgia
  - **East**
    - Duke at Wake Forest
  - **Midwest**
    - Georgia Tech at Boston College

**Scores**

- **Men's Basketball**
  - **South**
    - Duke at North Carolina
  - **Midwest**
    - Georgia Tech at Georgia State
  - **East**
    - Wake Forest at Boston College

**Scores**

- **Women's Basketball**
  - **South**
    - University of South Carolina at Florida State
  - **Midwest**
    - Duke at Georgia Tech
  - **East**
    - Boston College at Wake Forest

**Scores**

- **Men's Basketball**
  - **South**
    - Duke at Wake Forest
  - **Midwest**
    - Georgia at Georgia Tech
  - **East**
    - Boston College at Wake Forest

**Scores**

- **Women's Basketball**
  - **South**
    - University of South Carolina at Florida State
  - **Midwest**
    - Duke at Georgia Tech
  - **East**
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**Scores**

- **Men's Basketball**
  - **South**
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  - **South**
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**Briefly**

**Caps star Kuznetsov hit with 4-year ban from Russian squad**

Associated Press

GENEVA — Washington Capitals center Evgeny Kuznetsov tested positive for cocaine at the world championship and has been banned from the Russian national team for four years.

Kuznetsov failed a doping test after a sample was taken May 26 — the day Russia won the bronze medal game against the Czech Republic in Slovakia.

The ban does not stop Kuznetsov playing in the NHL, which classifies cocaine as a drug of abuse rather than a performance-enhancing doping product.

The NHL said Kuznetsov agreed to meet with commissioner Gary Bettman before training camp, and will undergo regular testing.

"Here, we understand that Mr. Kuznetsov has voluntarily sought help through the education and counseling program provided for in the NHL and (players' union) collective bargaining agreement," NHL Deputy Commissioner Bill Daly said in a statement.

Kuznetsov faced allegations of drug use at the world championship after a video posted on social media showed him talking to someone while lines of white powder and American dollar bills could be seen on the table. However, it was unclear when the clip was filmed.

Kuznetsov, who did not touch the powder in the soon-deleted video, said it was from 2018 in Las Vegas after the Capitals won the Stanley Cup with the Russian player a standout point producer. He said it was a friend's hotel room and he soon left after seeing drugs there.

"I never took drugs, give me a drug test and I'll pass it," he told Russian media outlet Sport Express in May.

The NHL closed its review of the incident within days, saying it found no reason to question the player's explanation.

His ban expires on June 12, 2023, the Zurich-based IHF said. The two-time world champion on could pursue an appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

The 27-year-old Kuznetsov is currently excluded from the 2022 Beijing Olympics and the next three world championships.

**Dolphins’ Flores says he supports player protests**

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. — Miami Dolphins coach Brian Flores says he supports the NFL player protest movement and receivers Kenny Stills, playing in the Super Bowl, want him to play better.

"Everything these guys protest, I've lived it, I've experienced it," said an impassioned Flores, who is the son of immigrants from the Dominican Republic. "They're bringing attention to my story. I'm a son of immigrants. I'm black. I grew up poor. I've been stopped because I fit the description."

Flores' comments came late Thursday following Miami's exhibition win over Jacksonville.

The subject arose because Stills objected Monday to recent remarks from Jay-Z about social activism by current and former NFL players, and the next day the Dolphins played more than half a dozen songs by the rapper at the start of practice.

Stills, who chooses the songs for practice, said he was trying to motivate Stills.

"I walked up to Kenny in front of the entire group and said, 'This is a challenge to you to get over it and catch the football. Make plays for this team, regardless of what's going on outside of this building.'" Flores said.

"It was a challenge to Kenny to perform regardless of what's going on outside. He hasn't performed to that level over the course of this training camp."

Stills' reaction to the melody?

"It was just music," Stills said.

The veteran receiver is out after a sample was taken May 26 after a sample was taken May 26 of the world championship and has been provisionally suspended.

The TV cameras following his every move on the back nine at East Lake were the first hint it was going well.

A two-putt birdie on the 18th green confirmed it.

"I saw I was in first," he said.

"Happy with the day."

Schauffele didn't come seriously close to a bogey in a 6-under 64 that was the best score of the opening round of two shots. It was only worth a share of the lead.

He salvaged the day with a two-putt birdie on No. 12. On the par-3 15th, he hit a pitching wedge into the water for double bogey and missed a pair of 3-foot putts for a 70.

Instead of being six shots behind, Schauffele was at 10 under.

Patrick Cantlay, the No. 2 seed, was tied for the lead. He started at 10 under and played better.

"I have to make do with the nickname TB12 and, of course, G.O.A.T. — or ‘Greatest of All Time.’"

**SPORTS BRIEFS/GOLF**

**Thomas stumbles, shares lead**

Schauffele moves to top of Tour Championship leaderboard after 64

By DOUG FERGUSON

ATLANTA — Xander Schauffele watches his fairway shot to the first green in Atlanta. Schauffele's 6-under 64 that was the best score of the opening round by two shots.

Thomas stumbles, shares lead

Justin Thomas hits during the first round of the Tour Championship Thursday in Atlanta. Thomas started at 10-under par and a two-shot lead as the No. 1 seed, and despite some trouble finding the fairway, was still atop the leaderboard with Xander Schauffele and Brooks Koepka after the first day of play.

Thomas made the turn at 1 under, and as the walking scorer brought the leaderboard onto the 10th tee, one fan was shocked to see him at 11 under until he said, "That's right — he started at 10 under."

Schauffele was at 10 under when he approached the 18th green to face a 6-foot birdeye putt.

"I had a putt for 59 on the last hole," he said with a smile. "That's what (Matt) Kuchar told me. I looked at him the same way. Got it."

Patrick Cantlay, the No. 2 seed who began two shots behind, shared the lead briefly until two bogeys over the last five holes for an 8-under 64 in which he played 60 yards shorter than usual, his wedge was right all the way and found the water.

And on the 17th, he hit wedge to 3 feet only to see his birdie putt spin 270 degrees around and out of the cup.

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their 40-man rosters.

2020 contracts to unsigned players on an organization and be eligible for post-

after World Series.

St. Louis 68 58 .540
Philadelphia 66 60 .524 9
Atlanta 77 52 .597 —
Toronto 52 78 .400 31
Tampa Bay 75 54 .581 8
Arizona 64 64 .500 20
Colorado 58 70 .453 26
San Francisco 63 65 .492 21
Cincinnati 60 66 .476 8
Milwaukee 65 62 .512 4
Baltimore 41 87 .320 41

(Lamet 2-2)
(Hudson 12-6)
(Yamamoto 4-4)
(Quintana 11-7)
(1-4)

Sox (Nova 9-9)

San Francisco (Bumgarner 8-8) at
Boston (Eovaldi 1-0) at San Diego
Arizona (Gallen 2-3) at Milwaukee
Philadelphia (Eflin 7-11) at Miami
Atlanta at N.Y . Mets
Toronto at Seattle
N.Y . Yankees at L.A. Dodgers
Boston at San Diego
Philadelphia at Miami
Atlanta at N.Y . Mets
Toronto at Seattle

Saturday's games

Friday's games

West Division

Central Division

East Division

West Division

National League

National League

W L Pct WCGB

Chicago 1. 2B—Belt (21). 3B—Crawford (2).
Texas 000  100  000—1
Chicago 000  100  000—1
New York 000  010  101—3


Totals 33 3 6 3

SP—Skole (1), Abbott (2), Almonte (1),
Bell (11). LOB—Washington 10,
Nationals 7, Pirates 1

1 0 0 0 1
1 0 0 0 1

IP  H R ER BB SO

Carrasco 0 0 0 0

Pagan S,14-21 1 0 0 0 0 0
Rodriguez 5 7 2 2 3 1

Boston

Cleveland

Detroit

IP R BB E

HR BB E

Total 3 3 2 1

HR—Diaz (15), Bogarts (43), Vazquez (22),
HR—Martin (26), Sb—Hamels (12),
Dobler (2). Totals 42 14 3 1

Kansas City

San Francisco

IP  H R ER BB SO

McKean 1 0 0 0 0 0

Los Angeles

Colorado

Arizona

Toronto

Toronto 3, Los Angeles 5. 2B—Bellinger (27),
Martin (28). SB—Hamilton (37,731).

E—Bell (11). LOB—Washington 10,
Nationals 7, Pirates 1

1 0 0 0 1
1 0 0 0 1

ab r h bi  ab r h bi


Athletics 5, Tigers 3

HP R BB E

32 3 5 3

Tigers 3, Detroit 1

Oddball

31 2 5 2

Detroit 1, New York 2

Oddball

1 0 0 0 1
1 0 0 0 1

ab r h bi  ab r h bi

Wood pitched to 2 batters in the 7th.

Cardinals 6, Rockies 5

MacKenzie 15-15

HP R BB E

20 2 5 2

New York 5, Toronto 0

Oddball

1 0 0 0 1
1 0 0 0 1

ab r h bi  ab r h bi

Jameson 1 0 0 0 2 1

Oakland

New York

Totals 34 4 5

Oddball

1 0 0 0 1
1 0 0 0 1

ab r h bi  ab r h bi

IP R BB E

Wood 0 1 0 0

New York

Oakland

IP R BB E

HR BB E

30 3 5 3

Tigers 3, Detroit 1

Oddball

1 0 0 0 1
1 0 0 0 1

ab r h bi  ab r h bi

Wood pitched to 2 batters in the 7th.

Cardinals 6, Rockies 5

MacKenzie 15-15

HP R BB E

20 2 5 2

New York 5, Toronto 0

Oddball

1 0 0 0 1
1 0 0 0 1

ab r h bi  ab r h bi

Jameson 1 0 0 0 2 1

Oakland

New York

Totals 34 4 5

Oddball

1 0 0 0 1
1 0 0 0 1

ab r h bi  ab r h bi

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20 2 5 2

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1 0 0 0 1
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ab r h bi  ab r h bi

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New York

Totals 34 4 5

Oddball

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ab r h bi  ab r h bi

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1 0 0 0 1

ab r h bi  ab r h bi

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Oddball

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1 0 0 0 1

ab r h bi  ab r h bi

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20 2 5 2

New York 5, Toronto 0

Oddball

1 0 0 0 1
1 0 0 0 1

ab r h bi  ab r h bi

Jameson 1 0 0 0 2 1

Oakland

New York

Totals 34 4 5
**Roundup**

**Orioles set record for homers allowed**

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — The Baltimore Orioles set the major league record for home runs allowed in a season, giving up drives to Austin Meadows and Willy Adames in a rain-delayed, 5-2 loss to Tampa Bay that ended shortly before 1 a.m. Friday.

About 200 fans were left at Camden Yards when the Rays closed out the win.

Meadows hit the record-setting 259th home run off Baltimore this year, connecting in the third inning. The last-place Orioles began the day tied to the 2016 Cincinnati Reds for the dubious mark.

Meadows later hit No. 260 against the O’s. Baltimore still has 34 more games remaining.

**Dodgers 3, Blue Jays 2:** Kike Hernandez capped a three-run ninth inning by blooping an RBI single and host Los Angeles rolled after being one-out through eight innings.

Shut down by rookie Jacob Waguespack, the Dodgers rallied with three straight hits against Dereck Law (0-2).

Casey Sadler (3-0) got the win for the NL West leaders.

**Cubs 1, Giants 0:** Kyle Hendricks (9-9) pitched seven sharp innings as host Chicago won its fifth straight despite getting only two hits.

Anthony Rizzo hit an RBI single to help the NL Central leaders complete a three-game sweep. The Giants lost their fourth in a row.

A day after the Cubs won 12-11 in a game with seven home runs, there was a brisk breeze blowing in at Wrigley Field and the teams combined for just six hits.

**Nationals 7, Pirates 1:** Max Scherzer pitched four innings in his return from the injured list, giving up one run and four hits as visiting Washington topped Pittsburgh.

The three-time Cy Young Award winner, who was put on the IL on July 26 with a strain in his upper back, struck out three and walked one. The Nationals hadn’t set a pitch count for Scherzer but said they would closely monitor him. He threw 71 pitches, 48 for strikes.

Anthony Rendon and Howie Kendrick homered for Washington, which leads the NL wild-card race.

**Cardinals 6, Rockies 5:** Marcell Ozuna, Paul DeJong and Dexter Fowler each hit two-run homers to pace host St. Louis.

Fowler’s 15th home run of the season, off of a 97 mph fastball from Yency Almonte (0-1) in the seventh, capped the comeback. Matt Carpenter set it up by working a walk in an eight-pitch, pinch hitting appearance to lead off the frame.

Dominic Leone (1-0), who was recalled from Triple-A Memphis before the game, got the win.

**Athletics pitcher Tanner Roark (2-1) struck out seven without walking a batter over six-plus innings.**

**B Y  J A N I E  M C C A U L E Y  A s s o c i a t e d  P r e s s**

OAKLAND, Calif. — Tanner Roark has been in Oakland long enough already to understand this winning vibe.

Roark is doing his part to keep the Athletics on a roll as the September stretch run approaches, striking out seven without walking a batter over six-plus innings in a 5-3 victory over the New York Yankees on Thursday night for a three-game series sweep.

“It shows what these guys in here in the clubhouse and all the coaches are all about,” Roark said. “We’re fighters and we’re not going to give in, we’re going to have fun, we’re going to do the small things great, get runs across the board and try to do our best to put up zeroes.”

Mark Canha hit a two-run single as the A’s immediately jumped on Yankees starter Masahiro Tanaka (9-7) on the way to a seventh victory in eight overall.

In less than a week, the A’s have taken down a pair of AL contenders in impressive fashion.

Oakland is one of another of its familiar second-half surges, mounting a season-best 21 games over .500 at 74-53 having won three of four against first-place Houston and then three straight over the AL East-leading Yankees.

“We can beat anybody. It’s just about bringing this game to the field every day and playing with confidence and doing all the little things well that we’re doing,” Canha said.

The fact that you keep looking at the scoreboard and the Rays keep winning, it just tells you we know we need to play well for five more weeks. There’s no letting up, obviously. This is going to be a dog fight.”

New York’s Gleyber Torres homered twice for his 30th and 31st of the year, a solo shot in the seventh and another in the ninth.

Oakland has won three of Roark’s four starts since he was acquired from Cincinnati. Roark (2-1) won his second straight decision and allowed two runs on seven hits in 6⅓ innings.

The Athletics also doubled and singled for the Yankees, who have lost nine of their last 10 and 21 of 28 in Oakland.

“Over the course of a long season you’re going to take one in the mouth, and we just got punched in the mouth right here in Oakland,” Yankees manager Aaron Boone said.

Tanaka, making his team-leading 26th start and pitching on an extra day of rest, dug himself an early hole allowing Marcus Semien’s leadoff double in the first, then giving up a pair of walks before an RBI groundout by Matt Olson and Canha’s base hit.

Matt Chapman added an RBI single and Stephen Piscotty drove in a run on a groundout.

Tanaka allowed five runs over six innings, striking out five and walking two.

Oakland swept two-out drivers but finished for his first save in five chances as Liam Hendriks got a break from the ninth inning after a five-out save on Wednesday.
**Flashy & familiar**

New coaches at Kansas, K-State at study in contrast

By Dave Serretta  
Associated Press

TOPEKA, Kan. — About the only thing the football programs at Kansas and Kansas State have in common much of the past three decades is the often desolate stretch of Interstate 70 that connects them.

The Jayhawks have the proud tradition of John Riggins and Gale Sayers, yet recent success has been so scant that they’ve churned through five coaches in the past 10 years. The Wildcats had virtually no tradition until Bill Snyder arrived, and he built a consistent winner tugged away in the Flint Hills.

Makes sense the two schools would take vastly different approaches to hiring new head coaches.

Kansas settled on Les Miles, 65, the “Mad Hatter” with Big 12 success at Oklahoma State and a national title at LSU on his résumé. The quirky, defensive-minded coach known for nibbling grass and his recent foray into films has personality, energy and experience on his side.

Kansas State went with Chris Klieman, 31, whose only experience at the Football Bowl Subdivision level came 22 years ago — one season as an assistant at Kansas. Yet the blue-collar, hard-working Klieman proved his coaching chops at North Dakota State, whip in his hand. He went 69-6- and won four Football Championship Subdivision titles.

Kansas State head coach Chris Klieman has little experience in the Football Bowl Subdivision, but his North Dakota State teams were 69-6- and won four Football Championship Subdivision titles.

Being a new feeling,” Miles said. “I think it’s going to be a challenge to win games and win championships, but yeah, we’re excited about the challenge.

To be sure, Miles understands the gargantuan task ahead of him.

Kansas hasn’t been to a bowl game since 2008, the penultimate season of Mark Mangino’s successful tenure. That was also the last time the Jayhawks won more than five games, let alone having a winning season. Four times in the intervening years they’ve won two games or fewer.

With losses along the way to the likes of Nicholls State, South Dakota State and seemingly every school in the Mid-America Conference, the Jayhawks had become not just the laughingstock of the state but the Big 12, they were the butt of jokes nationwide. Rarely did more than 15,000 fans show up to Memorial Stadium for home games, and even more rarely did anybody stick around for the second half.

Kansas has tried just about every avenue to land a winning coach, too.

There was Turner Gill, the former Big 12 quarterback who had turned around lowly Buffalo. There was the well-known Charlie Weis, who once led Notre Dame to back-to-back BCS bowl games. There was David Beaty, the career assistant with ties to the successful M Angela era.

So when athletic director Jeff Long went searching for the next coach, he settled on an old friend with a record of success in the Big 12 and the kind of gravitas it takes to bring recruits to Kansas.

“He’s built programs in the past. So when you’re out and you want back in, you can feel the passion in the conversation,” Long said. “From my view, for Les at this point in his career, the opportunity to step in and build a program — and rebuild us — and take us to a level of successful football was exciting to him and made a lot of sense for me to choose him.”

Much like Long tapped a longtime friend, so did Kansas State athletic director Gene Taylor. Only he wasn’t replacing a string of failed head coaches. Instead, he was replacing the winningest coach in school history, one whose statue stands outside the stadium that bears his name.

Yet in many ways Klieman is the perfect fit at Kansas State, where hard work and perseverance are valued more than most places. Those are traits Snyder instilled in the program when he first arrived in 1988, and set about rebuilding arguably the worst in college football history.

“Fundamentally there’s more similarities between them than differences,” said quarterbacks coach Collin Klein, a Heisman Trophy finalist under Snyder. “I think the style and organization of meetings and walkthroughs during our camp, getting our guys physically ready, that’s all very similar.”

“I know Coach Klieman’s approach is being 1-0 today,” Klein continued, “and stacking good days on top of each other is something that has been preached here a long time.”

There have been more good days than bad at Kansas State lately, and Klieman’s job is to sustain and build upon Snyder’s success: 215 wins, 18 bowl games, rarely a losing season.

It’s a much different challenge than the new coach at rival Kansas faces, but one no less daunting.

“There’s nothing that surprises me anymore with the number of years and the head coaching opportunities I’ve had,” Miles said. “I know what’s coming. I know what to expect from my players and coaches. I kind of anticipated where we would be, and to be honest, so far I’ve been pleased.”

Becton, Bowman among best on bowl-less teams

By Ralph D. Russo  
Associated Press

Not every college football team makes it to a bowl, although 39 postseason games in the Bowl Subdivision can make it seem that way.

That leaves more than 50 teams whose seasons will end before December. Among those unfortunate squads there are terrific players who will go largely unnoticed. Or, more optimistically, maybe they will lead a big turnaround for their rebuilding programs.

Time to recognize some of the best players on teams that weren’t bowl-eligible last year and probably won’t be this season.

**Louisville OT Mekhi Becton**

Bobby Petrino’s final season at Louisville was painful to watch. The Cardinals went 2-10 and were usually not competitive. New coach Scott Satterfield is almost starting from scratch. The roster needs a massive overhaul, but he has a left tackle in Becton who could play for a playoff contender. The 6-foot-7, 355-pound junior needs refinement, but his athleticism could make him a top-20 pick in the NFL Draft.

**Texas Tech QB Alan Bowman**

Bowman was tearing it up as a freshman for the Red Raiders until a partially collapsed lung limited him to eight games. He passed for 2,638 yards and 17 touchdowns in those games. After he was gone so were the Red Raiders’ bowl chances.

That led to coach Kliff Kingsbury getting fired, although things worked out OK for him. Becton’s presence on this list might be a bit of a stretch. It wouldn’t be all that surprising if the Red Raiders get back to bowl eligibility in Matt Wells’ first season as coach.

**Arkansas LB De’Jon Harris**

The Razorbacks did not win an SEC game in coach Chad Morris’ first season, but Harris was one of the best — and busiest — linebackers in the conference. Harris led the SEC in tackles with 118. Arkansas is again leaning on inexperienced players and underclassmen on defense, which doesn’t bode well for a major bounce back. Harris should again be busy.

**Colorado WR Laviska Shenault Jr.**

For the first month and a half of last season, Shenault was one of the best players in the country. He scored 11 touchdowns in six games and the Buffaloes started 5-1. A foot injury forced him out of three games and he wasn’t the same when he returned. Colorado finished the season with seven consecutive losses to get coach Mike McIntyre fired. Shenault is a potential All-American and if he stays healthy the Buffs are a team worth watching even as new coach Mel Tucker rebuilds.
Ending: Quarterman believes he has ‘higher place’ with Hurricanes

From Back Page

So the NFL can wait one more year. There are team goals he will chase as well, of course, but Quarterman simply wasn’t ready to leave the Hurricanes with just a good collegiate résumé. He wants a great one, and his final season at Miami starts Saturday in Orlando when the unranked Hurricanes take on No. 8 Florida in the resumption of one of college football’s best rivalries.

“It’s huge,” Quarterman said. “The rivalry started way before I was born. You’ve got people — very, very, very committed fans saying like, ‘Hey, man, this is it right here. This is everything.’ So you know that it’s important. You would have to be blind and deaf to not know it’s important.”

The 6-foot-1, 235-pound Quarterman has a chance this season to get his name all over the Miami record book. If the Hurricanes go to a bowl game and he plays in every contest, he’ll finish no worse than tied for the school record in games played. He could set the school mark for most starts in a season.

Quarterman’s numbers in 2018 were outstanding — 14 tackles for loss and six sacks, stats that backed up the idea of intelligence to back it up.

“Physically, he’s the type of player that you know that it’s important. You know that it’s important. You know that it’s important. You know that it’s important. This is everything. So you know that it’s important. You know that it’s important. You know that it’s important.”

By the numbers

40

Career starts for Miami LB Shaquille Quarterman, as of Saturday’s game against Florida, tying current Hurricanes assistant coach Mike Rumph for the fifth-longest in program history.

By Mark Long

Associated Press

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Dan Mullen and Manny Diaz first crossed paths a decade ago in Murfreesboro, Tenn. It was 45 degrees in mid-Octo-

ber for an 11:30 a.m. kickoff between Mississippi State and Middle Tennessee State. Mullen was calling plays in his first year as the Bulldogs’ head coach, and Diaz was dialing up blitzes from unusual formations in his fourth season as the Blue Raiders’ defensive coordinator.

There were a little more than 20,000 people on hand to watch a pair of teams that already had a combined six losses. It was nothing like the stage Mullen and Diaz will share when No. 8 Florida and rival Miami usher in the college football season Saturday night in Orlando.

But that otherwise forgetful game in the middle of the Volunteers State in 2009 sparked a lasting friendship that helped propel them to where they are today.

“He had the energy. He had an interesting scheme,” Mullen recalled this week. “He wasn’t afraid to think outside the box with his scheme and then had the intelligence to back it up.”

Mullen jotted down Diaz’s name on a list of “people to consider” as assistants and tucked it away in a folder on his desk. He opened it up a few months later and asked Diaz to join him in Starkville.

Diaz agreed and instantly gave the Bulldogs a defensive coordinator for the Middle Tennessee State Blue Hens. Their chance meeting in an otherwise forgettable game sparked a lasting friendship that helped propel each of them to where they are today.

Friendship between Mullen, Diaz forged in Murfreesboro

Few secrets between Florida, Miami coaches

By Mark Long

Associated Press

FLORIDA GATORS head coach Dan Mullen, above, was a first-year head coach at Mississippi State in 2009 when he first met Miami Hurricanes coach Manny Diaz, pictured below, who was at the time defensive coordinator for the Middle Tennessee State Blue Hens. Their chance meeting in an otherwise forgettable game sparked a lasting friendship that helped propel each of them to where they are today.

‘I consider him a friend. We’ve worked together twice, and two of those years Mississippi State had two of their best years in history.’

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Diaz and Quarterman

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Seattle Seahawks wide receiver DK Metcalf, left, just underwent minor knee surgery and is one of several first-year players on the team who are out with injuries. Defensive end L.J. Collier, center, has been out for weeks with an ankle injury and safety Marquise Blair, right, is dealing with back spasms. The players were the team’s top three picks.

Seahawks’ draft class decimated by injuries

By Tim Booth
Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — When Cody Barton took a moment to think about it, the Seattle Seahawks rookie linebacker realized he has been going nonstop for about a year. After his college career ended, it was straight into prep for the NFL combine. Then the draft, his first offseason workouts with the Seahawks and eventually training camp.

“We haven’t had a break, really, since the summer of 2018,” Barton said. And it hasn’t been an easy stretch for any of the rookies. Barton and the rest of Seattle’s 2019 draft class have been slowed by injury problems throughout training camp, costing the rookies valuable opportunities to make an impression and get a feel for the NFL.

The injury bug issues were apparent Wednesday when none of the top three draft picks were on the practice field. Wide receiver DK Metcalf had minor knee surgery earlier this week while safety Marquise Blair is dealing with back spasms. Defensive end L.J. Collier, center, has been out for weeks with an ankle injury and safety Marquise Blair, right, is dealing with back spasms. The players were the team’s top three picks.

“L.J., we are just going to have to wait it out,” Carroll said. “In that regard, L.J. is the one that’s frustrating because he hasn’t really had a shot to get going.”

One rookie who has stood out — and has yet to miss time — is defensive back Ugo Amadi, who was taken in the fourth round. Amadi had a special teams highlight against the Vikings with a perfectly timed tackle on punt coverage. He’s also been playing at safety and nickel cornerback.

“Availability is the best ability,” Amadi said. “Taking care of your body is huge. I learned that early from the veterans here. If you want to be able to get paid you’ve got to be out here.”

Treadwell ‘showcased’ as Vikings seek receivers

By Brian Hall
Associated Press

EAGAN, Minn. — Being a first-round draft pick, Laquon Treadwell has received several opportunities to secure a role in the Minnesota Vikings’ offense. His next chance might come with a new team.

Minnesota is still left searching for a reliable option for the third receiver spot behind Stefon Diggs and Adam Thielen.

“They’re hard to separate right now,” Vikings coach Mike Zimmer said of the backup receivers. “When we talk about it in the personnel meetings, it’s things like that. One guy has a good day, then he has a bad day. The consistency of what they’re trying to do is really hard to get a handle on. That’s why I say these special teams, they need to get their rear ends going on that.”

Treadwell’s spot in the competition has seemed more thought than expectation this year. He is behind second-year, undrafted Chad Beebe — son of former NFL wide receiver Don Beebe — on the depth chart and his spot on the roster became even more unsettled after Zimmer’s comments following Sunday’s second preseason game.

“We’re trying to get Treadwell the ball a little bit more in the second half,” Zimmer said after the game. “Try to showcase him a little bit, I guess. He made some nice plays.”

The nice plays have been few and far between in three seasons for Treadwell. He has 56 NFL catches for 517 yards and one touchdown, while being plagued by drops.

“It was no surprise this spring when Minnesota declined the fifth-year option on Treadwell’s contract,” Treadwell said this week. “I wouldn’t want to be nowhere else.”

Hoping to stay, Treadwell said he’s changed his outlook and is only focused on “winning.”

“That’s my mindset and it keeps things simple,” Treadwell said. “I don’t have to read the media. I don’t have to pay attention to depth charts, none of that. They call my name to go in, if I win, everything else will take care of itself.”

Beebe, who’s also been holding for field goals at times, appears to have a job. He had four catches for the Vikings last season.

Former Canadian Football League standout Branden Zylstra, who had one catch in the regular season last year, has recovered from an offseason injury and had five catches for 37 yards and a touchdown in Sunday’s game.

“I think the explosiveness is starting to come back a little bit for him now,” Zimmer said. “I thought he did well (Sunday).”

Former Denver Broncos receiver Jordan Taylor has been in the mix this summer. Minnesota drafted two receivers in the seventh round of this year’s draft, Olabisi Johnson and Dillon Mitchell, and also brought back speedy Jeff Badet after a year on the practice squad.

Special teams work will play a deciding role, and Zimmer also mentioned the eventual backups could come from another NFL roster.

Meanwhile, Treadwell doesn’t mind being showcased for a chance to make any NFL roster.

“I hope I’ll just get showcased more,” Treadwell said. “That’s what you want in this league, just to be able to go out and show what you can do. The more they show me, the more I’ll do. The opportunities I get, try to make the most of my opportunities and let the rest take care of itself.”

Minnesota Vikings wide receiver Laquon Treadwell is likely closing in on the end of his lackluster tenure with the Vikings, three years after they drafted the wide receiver in the first round.

Ted S. Warren/AP

Elaine Thompson/AP

Associated Press

Ted S. Warren/AP

Butch Dill/AP
Rookie Haskins, Washington roll

Redskins notch first preseason win

BY CHARLES ODUM
Associated Press

ATLANTA — If Case Keenum is still the leader in Washington’s quarterback competition, rookie Dwayne Haskins at least gave coach Jay Gruden more to think about.

Haskins led Washington to three second-half scoring drives, including two set up by Atlanta’s last fumbles while attempting to field punts, and the Redskins took a 19-7 preseason win over the Falcons on Thursday night.

Keenum played the first half and had a fumble, which helped the Falcons lead 7-6 at halftime.

Haskins, the first-round draft pick from Ohio State, completed 9 of 14 passes for 74 yards in the second half.

“I’m excited to see Dwayne make some throws from the pocket,” Gruden said. “I like that yardage. I like that he’s 7 of 13 passes for 74 yards in the first half and 9 of 14 for 74.

“I don’t necessarily need to be told, I guess you could say,” Keenum said. “I’m fine with however things go. I went pretty much the entire season with the Vikings not being told I was going to start until Wednesday of that week’s practice and we won 13 games that year, so that worked out all right.”

Keenum completed 9 of 14 passes for 101 yards but his last fumble when he was sacked by Deadrin Senat set up a second-quarter touchdown for Atlanta.

Takk McKinley recovered the fumble and ran 17 yards to the Washington 33. Ito Smith’s 5-yard touchdown run gave the Falcons a 7-3 lead.

Atlanta’s Matt Ryan played the full first half in his most extended playing time of the preseason and completed 9 of 14 passes for 74 yards. He was perfect in the first quarter, when he completed each of his eight passes for 60 yards.

Keenum didn’t speak with reporters after the game but could be seen staring at the ground and wearing a boot as he walked from the locker room toward the team bus.

“He got sacked, that’s about all I saw,” Carolina coach Ron Rivera said.

Redskins quarterback Dwayne Haskins works in the pocket during the second half of Thursday’s preseason game against the Falcons in Atlanta. Haskins led three scoring drives.

Preseason roundup

Newton injuries foot in Panthers’ loss to Patriots

Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — This was not the return to the field that Cam Newton was hoping to make.

The Carolina Panthers quarterback left Thursday night’s 10-3 exhibition loss to the New England Patriots in the first quarter with a foot injury that left him grimacing on the sideline.

“2015 MVP was playing for the first time since Dec. 17, when the team shut him down for the last two games of the season because of shoulder fatigue that prevented him from throwing the ball downfield. He had arthroscopic surgery in January and did not play in the first two preseason games.

Newton appeared to be injured when a sack forced a loss of 8 yards by Adam Butler on a third-and-10 from the Carolina 31. It was one of two times Newton was sacked.

Newton was initially evaluated on the sideline and quickly accompanied to the locker room and did not return.

He didn’t speak with reporters after the game but could be seen staring at the ground and wearing a boot as he walked from the locker room toward the team bus.

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Unfinished business

Hurricanes LB Quarterman seeking picture-perfect ending to senior year

By Tim Reynolds
Associated Press

Coral Gables, Fla. —
Haquille Quarterman took a long look at leaving Miami for the NFL after his junior season, and it would not have been a shocker to see the Hurricanes’ best linebacker turn pro.

He ultimately came back, seeking a picture-perfect ending.

“I think there’s definitely a higher place for me,” Quarterman said.

He means those words in a literal sense. At Miami, All-Americans get their picture high on the wall of the team’s practice facility. Quarterman looks at that wall, sees the best players ever to take the field with the “U” on the side of their helmet — and wonders what it’d be like to be part of that group.

SEE ENDING ON PAGE 29

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■ Friendship between coaches Mullen, Diaz goes back a decade, Page 29
■ New K-State, Kansas coaches are contrast in styles, Page 28

Miami linebacker Haquille Quarterman
AP photos

Redskins’ rookie QB Haskins shines against Falcons » Page 31
Newton suffers foot injury in Panthers’ loss to Pats » Page 31
Seahawks’ draft class struggling with series of injuries » Page 30

O’s record woes
Baltimore sets mark for HRs allowed — with 34 games to go » MLB, Page 27