WASHINGTON — The Army will evaluate more than 800 majors and lieutenant colonels during the next few weeks using its new, in-depth assessment program to determine who will be selected to command battalions in 2021.

So far, two groups of officers competing for some 450 battalion command jobs opening next year have completed the five-day testing period called the Battalion Commander Assessment Program, Army officials said Thursday. The program began Jan. 15 at Fort Knox, Ky., and is slated to be completed by Feb. 9. It aims to choose the leaders of battalions — formations typically of 300 to 800 soldiers — using a holistic analysis of eligible officers that evaluates their mental and physical capabilities and readiness to lead a large unit of soldiers.

Gen. James McConville, the Army's

SEE NEW ON PAGE 4

Lt. Col. Shaalim David places a plank on the double culvert obstacle to help his team overcome a challenge of the Leader Reaction Course during the Battalion Commander Assessment Program on Thursday at Fort Knox, Ky.

Daniel Schroeder/U.S. Army

BY COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump unveiled the logo for the U.S. Space Force in a tweet Friday.

The dark blue circular logo features the words “United States Space Force” and “Department of the Air Force” surrounding a design that appears to show a planet with stars in the background and a triangular arrowhead symbol. It also features the roman numerals “MMXIX,” or 2019 — the year the Space Force was officially launched.

“After consultation with our Great Military Leaders, designers, and others, I am pleased to present the new logo for the United States Space Force, the Sixth Branch of our Magnificent Military!” Trump tweeted Friday.

The logo almost instantly drew comparisons because of its similarity to the fictional Starfleet Command logo from the Star Trek series of films and television shows. That symbol also features the words — “Starfleet Command” and “United Federation of Planets” — in a circle around a background of stars with an arrowhead-like symbol and a planet in orbit.

“Swell, now taxpayers get to pay for lawyers when you’re sued by Paramount and the Roddenberry estate …,” tweeted Ned Pyle, a senior manager at Microsoft and a Marine veteran. He included side-by-side photos of the new Space Force symbol with the Star Trek logos.

Even George Takei, who played Sulu in the original TV series, tweeted about the similarity. He posted side-by-side images of the logos and wrote, “There is nothing sacred any more.”

The Space Force logo, however, is also reminiscent of the

SEE LOGO ON PAGE 4

Space Force logo in Trump tweet draws Star Trek comparisons

BY COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump unveiled the logo for the U.S. Space Force in a tweet Friday.
Stocks fall as fears about deadly virus rise

Associated Press

Stocks are closing with broad losses as increased fears that an outbreak of a deadly virus could spread more widely rattles markets. The S&P 500 had its worst day since early October as health care stocks incurred steep losses.

The sell-off followed news that a Chicago woman has become the second U.S. patient diagnosed with the new virus from China. The S&P 500 index fell 0.9%. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 170 points, or 0.6%, to 28,989. The Nasdaq lost 0.9%. The yield on the 10-year Treasury fell to 1.69% from 1.74% Thursday. “It really is a reaction to the widening nature of what’s going on with the coronavirus,” said Lisa Erickson, head of traditional investments at U.S. Bank Wealth Management. “People are concerned about, ultimately, the impact on Chinese growth and perhaps global growth.” Drugmaker Bristol-Myers Squibb led the slide in health care stocks, shedding 4.2%. Health insurers also fell. UnitedHealth Group dropped 2.2% and Amgen lost 3.4%.

Banks and other financial sector companies also took heavy losses, with credit card issuers among the biggest decliners. Discover Financial Services tumbled 10.1% and Synchrony Financial dropped 9.8%

United Airlines fell 5% and American Airlines dropped 5.6%. Cruise line operator Carnival fell 4.4%.

Dow Jones Industrial Average

The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.
Secret videos of troops posted on porn site

By Caitlin M. Kenney
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Secretly recorded videos, including some of sailors and Marines undressing in bathrooms, were posted on a pornographic website, a service spokesman said Friday.

“Naval Criminal Investigative Service” is investigating a report of non-consensual online distribution of explicit videos and images of service members. The investigation is in the early stages. Potential victims are being notified in a coordinated effort by NCIS, command leadership, and victims legal counsel,” Navy Lt. James Adams, a spokesman for U.S. Pacific Fleet, said in a statement.

It appeared the videos were recorded in several locations within Pacific Fleet, Adams said, including in bathrooms where people were undressing.

A few service members in the videos were assigned to the USS Emory S. Land, which is based in Guam, NBC News reported, citing U.S. military officials. The Emory S. Land is a submarine tender, which provides maintenance and supplies to submarines and surface ships.

The victims depicted in the videos and images appear mostly to be males, according to Adams, but the investigation is still determining how many victims there are. NCIS is looking into when the videos, which were uploaded to the website Pornhub, were taken, he said. The website has complied with a NCIS request to remove them and is cooperating with their investigation, Adams said.

NCIS started its investigation within the past couple of weeks, he said. A former sailor who is connected to the Pornhub account is a suspect, according to a Navy official who spoke on the condition of anonymity about the investigation.

In addition to the Navy, the service is working with the Navy Criminal Investigative Service, the FBI, and other agencies to identify the individuals depicted in the videos.

Adams said the Navy is not commenting on the specific locations where the videos were recorded or the identities of the victims. He said the service is aware of the videos and is working to ensure the safety of the service members depicted.

“NCIS will continue to investigate this matter and will inform the victims of the investigation,” Adams said.

It is not clear whether the videos were recorded with the consent of the victims or whether they were consensual.

The investigation is ongoing and has not been completed.

In April, NCIS established a special team to investigate and respond to allegations of non-consensual online distribution of explicit images and videos of service members.

The team is working to identify and locate victims and determine what steps can be taken to support them.

Adams said the service is working with NCIS and other agencies to identify and locate victims of non-consensual online distribution of explicit images and videos and to protect them.

On Jan. 7, one person was killed, and the earthquake caused more than $67 million in damage and triggered a state of emergency.

The United States, Mexico also sent troops to support recovery along the southern portion of the island where earthquakes caused the most damage. Earthquakes began to shake the island Dec. 28 with the largest 6.4-magnitude quake hitting just before dawn Jan. 7. One person was killed, and the earthquake caused more than $200 million in damage and triggered a state of emergency.

The strongest earthquake so far was Jan. 12, with a magnitude of 6.4.

Puerto Rico is one of the world’s most popular tourist destinations, with more than 3 million visitors expected in 2020.

The Department of Interior and U.S. Fish and Wildlife said the region is home to more than 600 species of birds, 12 species of bats, and more than 200 species of plants.

The region is also home to the world’s largest colony of Caribbean green turtles, which are listed as endangered.

In addition to the Puerto Rico National Guard, Ohio Air National Guard’s 200th Airlift Wing and National Guard Bureau spokesperson April Cunningham said the service is assisting with security operations, including in bathrooms where people were undressing.

Crews are currently providing assistance to the people of Puerto Rico, including by setting up tents and shelters, providing food and water, and assisting with security operations.

In addition to the Puerto Rico National Guard, Ohio and New Mexico also sent troops to support recovery along the southern portion of the island where earthquakes caused the most damage.

According to the service, about 7,500 people have left their homes for other kinds of shelter, including cars and tents in some cases, according to the Geological Survey.

Troops are primarily focused on efforts to support local emergency responders, which includes setting up disaster relief bed-down systems.

The service is also providing water and meals and assisting with security operations, said April Cunningham, National Guard Bureau spokeswoman.

Last week, troops built tent cities in Ponce, Peñuelas, Guayama, Yauco and Guánica, where they continue to provide security and support services such as food, water and medical screenings.

About 200 soldiers from the island’s 430th Quartermaster Company, an Army Reserve unit, activated last week to bring laundry and shower facilities to these shelters.

A 26-person team from the Ohio Air National Guard’s 200th Red Horse Squadron traveled to Puerto Rico Jan. 17 with two disaster relief bed-down systems that support about 150 people each, while also providing laundry, shower and kitchen facilities, according to a news release from Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine. He authorized the troops to stay for up to 90 days.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo pledged troops and a similar shelter system, but it has not yet arrived on the island.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Kelvin Matos powers up the SATCOM Hawkeye II satellite dish to provide internet at the Guanica tent city.

Pentagon nixes proposal to toughen limits on US tech sales to Huawei

By David J. Lynch
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Pentagon objections are stalling a Commerce Department bid to further limit Chinese telecom giant Huawei’s access to U.S. technology, according to people familiar with internal administration deliberations.

Officials in the office of Ellen Lord, the undersecretary of defense for acquisition and sustainment, this week vetoed a Commerce Department proposal that would have made it harder for U.S. companies’ overseas units to sell computer chips and other components to Huawei said the people, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss confidential matters.

The Pentagon feared additional limits would cost U.S. companies such as Qualcomm, Intel and Micron so much revenue that their research spending would suffer, causing them to fall behind their global rivals and imperiling the American military’s technological edge.

President Donald Trump last week signed a trade deal with China, hailing it as a “really incredible breakthrough,” and frequently lauds Chinese President Xi Jinping as a personal friend.

Two days earlier, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo had decried Xi’s authoritarianism and warned Silicon Valley against enabling China’s “truly Orwellian surveillance state.”

The Pentagon roadblock to tougher action drew sharp criticism from a trio of influential Republican senators on Friday.

“Huawei is an arm of the Chinese Communist Party and should be treated as such,” wrote Sens. Ben Sasse of Nebraska, Tom Cotton of Arkansas and Marco Rubio of Florida. “It is difficult to imagine that, at the height of the Cold War, the Department of Defense would condone American companies contracting with KGB subsidiaries because Moscow offered a discount. We are concerned that the Defense Department is not appropriately weighing the risks.”
**New:** Process highlights any issues, red flags that might have been missed previously

FROM FRONT PAGE

Pentagon reopens database after lawsuit from vet group

Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. — The Pentagon will reopen a records database that helps service members who are appealing a less-than-honorable discharge, a veterans group said Friday.

The National Veterans Legal Services Program had sued the Defense Department over a lack of access to the database, arguing that the military had been breaking federal law since April.

The database contains decisions by military review boards that grant or deny a veteran’s request to upgrade a discharge. Veterans and their lawyers study those decisions in hopes of building successful arguments of their own.

“They can make a stronger case by looking to see how other people have won,” said Bart Stichman, executive director of the organization that filed the lawsuit.

Stichman said the Pentagon has agreed to make almost all of the records available by the end of March. But he said the quality of veterans’ appeals likely suffered during the last several months.

Appeals are being made at a time of growing recognition that a less-than-honorable discharge can stem from behaviors brought on by post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injuries.

Liberal consideration is supposed to be given to veterans with combat-related mental health conditions and to those who were sexually assaulted while in the military.

Veterans can lose some or all of the benefits that are available to them, depending on their discharge status.

“The veterans’ group said its lawsuit will remain pending to ensure that all military board decisions are made available. The law firm Hunton Andrews Kurth has provided pro bono legal counsel to the group.
Trump's foolish comments denigrate our men and women in uniform and all Americans negatively affected by traumatic brain injury."

After the Trump administration initially said no troops were injured when Iran launched missiles at U.S. bases in Iraq on Jan. 8, Defense Department officials acknowledged Tuesday that at least 11 military personnel were taken out of Iraq after complaining of concussion-like symptoms.

"I heard that they had headaches and a couple of other things," the president said Wednesday during a news conference in Davos, Switzerland. "But I would say, and I can report, it is not very serious, not very serious." Trump then noted how Iranian roadside bombs have cost many U.S. military personnel their limbs, in a seeming attempt to contrast those people — who were "horribly, horribly injured." he said — with less worrisome psychic damage. Later, at a Pentagon press conference, Maj. Gen. Alexus Grynkewich, deputy commander of the Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq and Syria, said evaluations of injured U.S. service members are ongoing. Grynkewich said he didn't know the exact number of injured but described it as in the "teens." He said it was too early to describe the injuries as TBIs or concussions.

"We have suspicions that there could be a diagnosis of TBI in the future, that there might have been a concussion, but TBI is a very specific medical diagnosis that I don't want to prejudice, and I'll let the medical experts do that," he said.

Medical authorities have increasingly worried that even seemingly mild brain injuries, especially repeat ones, can have debilitating long-term effects.

"Over the past 30 years, research has linked moderate and severe traumatic brain injury to a greater risk of developing Alzheimer's disease or another dementia years after the original head injury," says the website of the Alzheimer's Association, a health care organization.

Roadside bombs and similar blasts in battlefields in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere, on top of accidents in training, have caused thousands of cases of traumatic brain injury among U.S. military personnel.

All told, more than 413,000 service members have been hit with brain injuries from a variety of causes since 2000, according to the Pentagon's Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center — the existence of which is itself a sign of how seriously the military treats the issue. Nearly 19,000 U.S. military personnel suffered TBIs in 2018 alone, the most in any complete year for which figures are available.

Most misconceptions among military personnel were considered mild, and most happened outside the battlefield or training areas, Pentagon experts say.

Retired Army Gen. Pete Chiarelli, a former commandant of the Army, said in a 2013 interview that he was stunned to learn that TBI or post-traumatic stress accounted for 36% of the injuries in that conflict.

"By the time I learned the numbers, I was floored," Chiarelli said. "I thought it was a couple of things, and I didn't believe it. And then I went to look at the research and I discovered that this was not a fluke. This was true. And I realized this was not the time when people are backing out."
Lawyer: Dems want to ‘overturn’ election

Trump’s legal team opens defense at impeachment trial

By Eric Tucker, Lisa Mascaro and Zeke Miller

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump’s lawyers opened their impeachment trial defense Saturday by accusing Democrats of striving to overturn the 2016 election, arguing that investigations of Trump’s dealings with Ukraine have not been a fact-finding mission but a politically motivated effort to drive him from the White House.

“They’re here to perpetrate the most massive interference in an election in American history,” White House Counsel Pat Cipollone told senators. “And we can’t allow that to happen.”

The Trump legal team’s arguments in the rare Saturday session were aimed at rebutting allegations that the president abused his power when he asked Ukraine to investigate political rival Joe Biden and then obstructed Congress as it tried to investigate. The lawyers presented a wide-ranging, aggressive defense asserting an expansive view of presidential powers and portraying Trump as besieged by political opponents determined to ensure he won’t be re-elected this November.

“Though Trump is the one on trial, the defense team made clear that it intends to place scruples on any kind of impeachment case as a mere continuation of the investigations that have shadowed his presidency since before he took office — including one into allegations of Russian election interference on his behalf. Trump attorney Jay Sekulow suggested Democrats were investigating the president over Ukraine simply because they couldn’t bring him down for Russia. "That — for this," said Sekulow, holding up a copy of special counsel Robert Mueller’s report, which he accused Democrats of attempting to introduce as evidence. "This report detailed ties between the 2016 Trump campaign and Russia, but that wasn’t the goal, and it wasn’t a political conspiracy to tip the election."

From the White House, Trump added a name-calling, tweeting that his team was making his case “against lyin’, cheatin’, liddle’ Adam ‘Shifty’ Schiff, Cryin’ Chuck Schumer, Nervous Nancy Pelosi” and others of “the Radical Left.” On the Senate floor, Trump’s lawyers attacked Schiff, playing clips of past statements meant to undermine his credibility.

Trump’s team made only a two-hour presentation, reserving the heart of its case for Monday. After Schiff’s opening arguments, aides were not required to testify or produce documents.

The argument from Trump’s lawyers was expected to argue that an impeachment trial of the president was a victim not only of Democratic demands for testimony from top Trump aides, including acting chief of staff Mick Mulvaney and former national security adviser John Bolton, who refused to appear before the House. It would take four Republic senators to join the Democratic minority to seek witnesses, and so far the numbers appear lacking.

Democrats on Friday tried to preempt anticipated arguments from Trump’s lawyers, attacking their defense as “lame.”

Those include that Trump had a legitimate basis to be concerned about corruption in Ukraine and to pause military aid to the country. One of the president’s lawyers, Alan Dershowitz, would deliver the day’s final impeachment trial defense. Democrats have said their impeachable offense requires criminal-like conduct, even though many legal scholars say that’s not true.

With Chief Justice John Roberts presiding, the final day of the impeachment trial was expected to be marked with Rep. Jason Crow of Colorado, a former Army Ranger, saying the only reason Trump eventually released his hold on the aid to Ukraine was because he had “gotten caught.”

The Democrats’ challenge was clear as they tried to convince not just senators but an American public divided over the Republican president in an election year. A new Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research showed the public slightly more likely to say Trump should be removed from office than to say he should not, 45% to 40%. But 53% said they didn’t know enough to have an opinion.

One issue with wide agreement: Trump should allow top aides to testify or produce documents. About 7 in 10 respondents said so, including majorities of Republicans and Democrats, according to the poll.
Facebook gives Sanders fans influence beyond ballot

By Craig Timberg
And Isaac Stanley-becker
The Washington Post

A Democrat in Michigan scrolled through a surge of nasty Facebook memes about Sen. Elizabeth Warren last week before fixing on one that captured his growing dislike of the candidate. It depicted her smiling face as a mask. Behind it was Hillary Clinton.

Matt Walters, 64, a retired factory worker and supporter of Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., shared the image onward to eight Facebook groups and tens of thousands of potential eyeballs with a few taps on his smartphone — using a popular new mass-posting technique that allows ordinary Americans to operate with the rapid-fire speed reminiscent of Russian bots and trolls in 2016.

In that small way, Walters contributed to a massive wave of hostile memes about Sanders’ Democratic rivals that both reflects the rising divisiveness in the party’s nominating contest and, in the view of social media experts, exacerbates it.

“I call it a force multiplier,” Walters, a onetime union activist, said of Facebook.

The volume and viciousness of that meme — portraying War- ren, D-Mass., as a backstabber and a liar — reflect how Facebook identifies and rewards emotionally charged content to generate reactions from its billions of users. That serves the company’s ad-driven business model, which equates engagement with profit. But it also, in the view of experts who study Facebook’s effect on political discourse, distorts democratic debate by confirming biases, sharpening divisions and elevating the glib visual logic of memes over reasoned discussion.

Facebook’s “algorithm not only aggregates people, it activates people in a way that accentuates extremism,” said George Wash- ington University professor Steven Livingston, director of the university’s Institute for Data, Democracy and Politics. “It inflames passions. It inflames the nature of the discourse.”

Facebook spokesman Andy Stone declined to comment for this story.

Since the beginning of 2019, nearly 3,000 active Facebook pages supporting Sanders have generated more than 290 million interactions — meaning shares, likes or other user actions — according to an analysis by Trevor Davis, a research professor at Livingston’s institute. For contrast, about 350 pages devoted to former vice president Joe Biden have generated just 9 million interactions; nearly 300 pro-Warren pages come in at under 20 million interactions.

That breakdown is vastly out of sync with projected support for the candidates in polls, which show Sanders gaining ground but still behind Biden in an average of surveys. This underscores a new reality: Facebook gives in- dividual users power over public discourse disproportionate to their authority at the ballot box.

Such outsized influence once required significant resources — money for printed materials, access to a broadcast studio or time to reach people face-to-face. Now it requires a smartphone.

One popular technique introduced by Facebook last spring allows sharing to multiple groups with a few simple clicks on a mobile device, allowing enthusiasts such as Walters to broadcast their views even more quickly than before.

The rising popularity of the tactic among Sanders support- ers may help explain the scores of images bashing Sanders’ opponents that have appeared in nearly simultaneous bursts in recent weeks, pushed out by highly networked clusters of Facebook users, according to Davis’ analysis.

He did not find evidence that the campaign itself was involved in this activity, focusing instead on the informal Facebook activ- ity by supporters.

No other Democrat’s supporters are engaged in behavior on a similar scale, which is more char- acteristic of the online movement galvanized by Trump. The presi- dent’s campaign aides have cred- ited Facebook with his victory in 2016, when he poured money into advertising on the platform while also using organic posts on social media to speak directly to his followers, who responded with a torrent of posts backing him and lacerating his opponents.

Sanders has similarly em- brace social media as a tool in the political revolution he prom- ises, though the candidate’s posts hardly echo the personal insults lobbed by Trump. And the sena- tor’s campaign distanced itself from the online attacks.

“As the senator has said loudly and clearly, there is no room in the political revolution for abuse and harassment online,” said Sarah Ford, a campaign spokeswoman.

The pro-Sanders forums focus on a range of themes, including the senator’s independence from corporate interests and his oppo- sition to President Trump. At the same time, many of the images that fill the groups and pages are strikingly negative about rival Democrats, depicting former

Despite concerns, candidates eye taking private jets to Iowa

Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren have spent the past year courting the Democratic Party’s base with appeals to working-class values and sweeping promises to curb cli- mate change.

But as they balance their re- sponsibilities to participate in the Senate’s impeachment trial and rally voters on the campaign trail, they’re turning to private air travel, an option typically re- served for the elite and criticized as environmentally unfriendly.

Sanders is expected to charter a flight to Iowa this weekend while the Senate trial is in recess.

Warren hasn’t finalized her plans but is also considering private travel, and Amy Klobu- char hasn’t ruled it out. Only Mi- chael Bennet says he’ll be flying commercial.

The senators are facing an unprecedented challenge in the final days before the Feb. 3 Iowa cau- cuses. At a time when they would typically barnstorm the state, they’re instead stuck in Washington as jurors in President Donald Trump’s impeachment case.

“The little time they have for campaigning makes commercial travel tough,” said Democratic strategist Chris Lippincott, who has not endorsed any of the 2020 primary candidates.

“When we think about cer- tain candidates who talk a lot about the environment … you’re going to hold them to a different standard,” Lippincott applauded the 2020 presidential hopefuls in the Senator’s bidding, and called them to be “truthful and trustworthy.”

“I understand it,” he said of trying to live progressive values at all times, “but the reality is, there’s a big risk of being per- ceived as being an ideologue and not a problem-solver.”
Actress says she was told of Weinstein rape

Actress Rosie Perez arranges for Harvey Weinstein's rape trial, Friday on in New York.

NEW YORK — “Do the Right Thing” actress Rosie Perez testified Friday that fellow screen star Annabella Sciorra told her in the mid-1990s that Harvey Weinstein had raped her but that she couldn’t go to the police because “he’d destroy me.”

Perez said she asked if Sciorra knew who had attacked her, but Sciorra wouldn’t say at the time. But months later, on another phone call from London, she named Weinstein, Perez said.

“Please go to the police,” Perez said she told her friend. She said Sciorra responded: “I can’t—he’d destroy me.”

On Thursday, Sciorra told jurors that the then-powerful movie producer pushed his way into her New York apartment, pinned her on a bed and forced himself on her in 1993 or 1994. She said Perez was one of a few people she told about the encounter before coming forward publicly in 2017.

Weinstein denies ever having nonconsensual sex. His lawyers said Perez shouldn’t be allowed to testify, but Judge James Burke decided to allow it.

Weinstein, the studio boss whose downfall energized the #MeToo movement, is charged with forcibly performing oral sex on former production assistant Mimi Haleyi in his New York apartment in 2006 and raping an aspiring actress in a New York hotel room in 2013. Sciorra is among four additional accusers who are expected to testify as part of an effort by prosecutors to show that Weinstein made a habit of preying on women.

The 67-year-old producer of such Oscar-winning movies as “Chicago” and “The King’s Speech” could get life in prison if convicted.

Sciorra, 59, is best known for her work on “The Sopranos,” Perez, 55, was in 1990’s “Do the Right Thing” and 1993’s “Fearless,” which brought her an Oscar nomination for best-supporting actress.

Weinstein’s lawyers seized on Sciorra’s actions after the alleged assault, asking such questions as to why Sciorra made the 1997 Weinstein-produced film “Cop Land” if he had raped her a few years earlier. Sciorra said she wasn’t aware of Weinstein’s involvement until she had agreed to appear in the film.

The defense has also questioned why Weinstein’s accusers stayed in friendly contact for years with a man they say had assaulted them. Prosecutors called to the stand a forensic psychiatrist who testified about the same topic at the Pennsylvania trial that led to Bill Cosby’s 2018 conviction on charges of sexually assaulting a woman.

Dr. Barbara Ziv told Weinstein’s jury that most sex-assault victims continue to have contact with their attackers, who often threaten retaliation if the victims tell anyone what happened.

“People are hoping that this is just an aberration,” she said, and they tell themselves: “I can put it in a box and forget about it. I don’t want it to get worse... I can handle this physical trauma, but God forbid this ruins the rest of my life.”

Victims can end up blaming themselves “without knowing that these memories are entirely expected,” said Ziv, who has described herself as an expert on “sexual assault victim behavior” who has evaluated more than 1,000 such people.

She did not, however, evaluate any of Weinstein’s accusers, a point his lawyers seized on.

Feds plan to move Epstein warden to new prison job

WASHINGTON — The warden in charge when Jeffrey Epstein ended his life in his jail cell is being moved to a leadership position at another federal correctional facility, putting him back in the field with inmates despite an ongoing investigation into the financier’s death, two people familiar with the matter told The Associated Press.

The federal Bureau of Prisons is planning to move Lamme N’Diaye to the role at FCI Fort Dix, a low-security prison in Burlington County, N.J., the people said. The move comes months after Attorney General William Barr ordered N’Diaye be reassigned to a desk post at the Bureau of Prisons’ regional office in Pennsylvania after Epstein’s death as the FBI and the Justice Department’s inspector general investigated.

One of the people said the agency planned to move N’Diaye into the new role on Feb. 2. The people spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity to discuss an internal personnel matter.

It was unclear why the agency was planning to return N’Diaye to a position supervising inmates and staff members, even though multiple investigations into Epstein’s death remain active. The inspector general’s investigation is continuing, and the Justice Department is still probing the circumstances that led to Epstein’s death, including why he wasn’t given a cellmate.

Epstein took his own life in August while awaiting trial on charges he sexually abused girls as young as 14 and young women in New York and Florida in the early 2000s.

Epstein’s suicide cast a spotlight on the Bureau of Prisons and highlighted a series of safety lapses inside a high-security unit of one of the most secure jails.
US says e-commerce firms need to do more about fake goods

WASHINGTON — E-commerce has unleashed an increasing torrent of fake merchandise upon the world and private companies and the U.S. government must do more to address the problem, Trump administration officials said Friday as they released a plan aimed at cracking down on counterfeit goods.

An "action plan" released by the Department of Homeland Security says the government will apply increased scrutiny of e-commerce, including the third-party sellers who sell goods on the major online sites as well as shippers and operators of warehouses where merchandise is stored.

It also calls on e-commerce companies to strengthen protections for consumers, more thoroughly screen third-party sellers who use their sites and take other actions to reduce the spread of counterfeit products that has ballooned with growth of online sales in recent years.

"Some platforms have put in place certain measures to guard against counterfeit products, but their efforts are oftentimes overwhelmed by the scale of the activity online," said Chad Wolf, the acting secretary of DHS, in releasing the plan, "but their clients. There's a game room upstairs. There's so much activity for kids that it allows the parents to do whatever they'd like."

On the adult side of things, the action looks a little different — especially when the NCAA March Madness college basketball tournament rolls around.

There's plenty of TVs in the suite, but once March Madness, the hotel fits the room with enough screens to show every game that's available, Yalda said.

PHOENIX — Transgender girls and women would be barred from participating in sports on teams that align with their gender identity under a proposed Arizona law.

The proposal announced by GOP Rep. Nancy Barto on Friday is co-sponsored by 22 other Republican House members and is the latest on a growing list of more than a dozen states with bills that focus on transgender young people.

The Arizona legislation allows only biological women or girls to play on female teams, and requires a doctor's note to prove a person is female if their birth sex is disputed. It allows lawsuits by students who believe they've missed opportunities because a transgender person is on a school team.

"Some platforms have put in place certain measures to guard against counterfeit products, but their efforts are oftentimes overwhelmed by the scale of the activity online," said Chad Wolf, the acting secretary of DHS, in releasing the plan, "but their clients. There's a game room upstairs. There's so much activity for kids that it allows the parents to do whatever they'd like."

The proposed laws, if enacted, "would bring devastating harms to the transgender community," attorney Chase Strangio, a transgender rights lawyer with the ACLU, said.

"It is hard to imagine why state legislators have decided to prioritize barring transgender young people from participating in the talent of secondary school athletics and, worse, it can result in missed opportunities because a student who believes they've been excluded from participating in a sport of their choosing," Strangio said.

"Likewise, every child deserves a childhood that allows them to experience puberty and other natural changes that shape who they will become," Barto said.

Conservative groups are also pushing bills that would bar doctors from providing them certain gender-related medical treatment.

If the proposed laws, if enacted, "would bring devastating harms to the transgender community," attorney Chase Strangio, a transgender rights lawyer with the ACLU, said.

"It is hard to imagine why state legislators have decided to prioritize barring transgender young people from participating in the talent of secondary school athletics and, worse, it can result in missed opportunities because a student who believes they've been excluded from participating in a sport of their choosing," Strangio said.

"It is hard to imagine why state legislators have decided to prioritize barring transgender young people from participating in the talent of secondary school athletics and, worse, it can result in missed opportunities because a student who believes they've been excluded from participating in a sport of their choosing," Strangio said.

"It is hard to imagine why state legislators have decided to prioritize barring transgender young people from participating in the talent of secondary school athletics and, worse, it can result in missed opportunities because a student who believes they've been excluded from participating in a sport of their choosing," Strangio said.

"It is hard to imagine why state legislators have decided to prioritize barring transgender young people from participating in the talent of secondary school athletics and, worse, it can result in missed opportunities because a student who believes they've been excluded from participating in a sport of their choosing," Strangio said.

"It is hard to imagine why state legislators have decided to prioritize barring transgender young people from participating in the talent of secondary school athletics and, worse, it can result in missed opportunities because a student who believes they've been excluded from participating in a sport of their choosing," Strangio said.
Cars banned and schools closed as virus spreads

By Ken Moritsugu
Associated Press

BELFAST — The virus-hit Chinese city of Wuhan, already on lockdown, banned most vehicle use downtown and Hong Kong said it would close schools for two weeks as authorities scrambled Sunday to stop the spread of an illness that has infected more than 1,200 people and killed 41.

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam said her government has declared the outbreak an emergency and will close primary and secondary schools for two more weeks on top of next week's Lunar New Year holiday. They will re-open Feb. 17.

She said that direct flights and trains from Wuhan would be blocked. The outbreak began in the city in central China and has spread nationwide and overseas, fueled by millions of people traveling during the country's biggest holiday.

The vast majority of the infections and all the deaths have been in mainland China, but fresh cases are popping up. Australia and Malaysia reported their first cases Saturday and Japan, its third. France confirmed three cases Friday, the first in Europe, and the U.S. identified its second, a woman in Chicago who had returned from China.

The new virus comes from a large family of what are known as coronaviruses, some causing nothing worse than a cold. It causes cold-and-flu-like symptoms, including cough and fever and, in more severe cases, shortness of breath. It can lead to pneumonia, which can be fatal.

China cut off trains, planes and other links to Wuhan on Wednesday, a day after the country’s biggest holiday. Authorities have failed to fully inform the public of the risks of eating them.

The cities of Yichang, Suizhou and Jingzhou were the latest added to the list on Friday evening.

London police to use face scanning tech, raising privacy concerns

By Kelvin Chan
Associated Press

LONDON — London police will start using facial recognition cameras to pick out suspects from street crowds in real-time, in a major advance for the controversial technology that raises worries about automated surveillance and erosion of privacy rights.

The Metropolitan Police Service said Friday that after a series of trials, the cameras will be put to work in operational deployments within a month at potential crime hotspots. The locations would be chosen based on intelligence but the police did not say where, the number of places, or how many cameras would be deployed.

Real-time crowd surveillance by British police is among the more aggressive uses of facial recognition in wealthy democracies and raises questions about how the technology will enter people’s daily lives. Authorities and private companies are eager to use facial recognition but rights groups say it threatens civil liberties and represents an expansion of surveillance.

London’s decision to use the technology defies warnings from rights groups, lawmakers and independent experts, Amnesty International researcher Anna Baccarelli said.

“Facial recognition technology poses a huge threat to human rights, including the rights to privacy, non-discrimination, freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly,” Baccarelli said.

London police said the facial recognition system, which runs on technology from Japan’s NEC, looks for faces in crowds to see if they match any on “watchlists” of up to 2,500 people wanted for serious and violent offenses, including gun and knife crimes and child sexual exploitation.

“As a modern police force, I believe that we have a duty to use new technologies to keep people safe in London,” Assistant Commissioner Nick Ephgrave said in a statement.

The British have long become accustomed to video surveillance, with cameras used in public spaces for decades by security forces fighting terror threats.

London is the sixth most monitored city in the world, with nearly 628,000 surveillance cameras, according to a Comparitech report.

Outbreak revives call to end wildlife trade

Associated Press

BELFAST — The outbreak of a new virus linked to a wildlife market in central China is prompting renewed calls for enforcement of laws against the trade-in and consumption of exotic species.

It’s also raising questions about how it could happen again after the lessons learned from the 2002-2003 outbreak of SARS, or Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, which was traced to consumption of wild animals in the southern city of Guangzhou.

Pneumonia, which can be fatal. It as coronaviruses, some caus-
Protest tents set ablaze in Iraq

Baghdad — Security forces set fire to anti-government protest tents in the country’s south early Saturday and re-opened key public squares in Baghdad that had been occupied by demonstrators for months.

The crackdown came hours after a powerful Shiite cleric declared the protest movement a blow by withdrawing his support, prompting his followers to pack up and leave the demonstration site.

At least eight people were wounded when security forces fired into crowds in Baghdad’s central Khiilani Square as clearance operations were underway, medics and security officials said. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

Activists said the presence of Muqtada al-Sadr’s followers and his militia group had shielded the protesters from security forces and unknown groups looking to harm and suppress them. With that cover gone, many in the four-month-old movement feared the worst.

The demonstrations have been critical of government corruption, high unemployment and Iran’s influence in Iraqi politics. Crackdowns by security forces have killed at least 500 protesters. But many of the protesters are worried that the conflict between the U.S. and Iran, which is playing out in part on Iraqi soil, is killing their momentum.

In a tweet Friday evening, al-Sadr indicated his “disappointment” toward anti-government protesters in Baghdad’s Tahrir Square, the epicenter of the anti-government protests. Al-Sadr’s tweet came just hours after tens of thousands of his followers staged a separate anti-U.S. rally in a nearby Baghdad neighborhood, which most demonstrators in the square steered clear of.

“I am expressing my disappointment and my regret toward all those who doubted me among the Tahrir Square protesters,” al-Sadr said in an interview released Sunday.

Mohammed Javad Zarif told Germany’s Der Spiegel magazine that he would “never rule out the possibility that people will change their approach and recognize the reality,” in an interview conducted Saturday in Tehran.

There has been growing tension between Washington and Tehran since in 2015, when President Donald Trump pulled the United States out of the nuclear deal with Iran. The U.S. has since reimposed tough sanctions that have crippled Iran’s economy.

But Zarif suggested Iran was still willing to talk, though reiterated his country’s previous demand that the first the U.S. would have to lift sanctions.

“For us, it doesn’t matter who is sitting in the White House, what matters is how they behave,” he said, according to Der Spiegel.

“The Trump administration can correct its past, lift the sanctions and come back to the negotiating table. We’re still at the negotiating table. They’re the ones who left.”

Trump has maintained that the 2015 nuclear deal needs to be renegotiated because it didn’t address Iran’s ballistic missile program or its missile activities in regional conflicts. The other signatories to the nuclear deal — Germany, France, Britain, China and Russia — have been struggling to keep it alive.

Following the U.S. drone strike Jan. 3 that killed Revolutionary Guard Gen. Qassem Soleimani, Iran announced it would no longer abide by any of the deal’s limitations on its nuclear activities. It then retaliated Jan. 8, launching ballistic missiles at two bases in Iraq housing American troops, causing injuries but no fatalities among soldiers there.

Zarif did suggest Iran was also seeking a “dialogue” with the U.S., though was not specific.

“The U.S. has inflicted great harm on the Iranian people,” he said. “The day will come when they will have to compensate for that. We have a lot of patience.”

Death toll climbs after quake rocks Turkey

Turkey — The death toll from a strong earthquake that hit eastern Turkey climbed to 22 Saturday, with more than 3,000 people injured, officials said.

Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu, speaking at a televised news conference near the epicenter of the quake, said 39 people had been rescued from the rubble of collapsed buildings, including a woman, over 14 hours after the main tremor.

Rescue workers were continuing to search for people buried under the rubble of collapsed buildings in Elazig province and neighboring Malatya, Health Minister Fahrettin Koca said earlier.

Emergency workers and security forces distributed tents, beds and blankets as overnight temperatures dropped below freezing in the affected areas. Mosques, schools, sports halls and student dormitories were opened for hundreds who left their homes after the quake.

“The earthquake was very severe, we desperately ran out of (our home),” Enre Gocer told the state-run Anadolu news agency.

Soylu said emergency work was proceeding under the threat of aftershocks.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Twitter overnight that all measures were being taken to “ensure that this powerful earthquake that occurred in Elazig and was felt in many provinces is overcome with the least amount of loss.”

Neighboring Greece, which is at odds with Turkey over maritime boundaries and gas exploitation rights offsets involved, said the earthquake was felt there.

Elazig is some 565 kilometers east of the Turkish capital, Ankara.

Iranian official says Tehran is still willing to negotiate with US

Dubai, United Arab Emirates — Iran is not ruling out negotiations with the United States even after an American drone strike that killed a top Iranian general, the country’s foreign minister said in an interview released Sunday.

“The U.S. has inflicted great harm on the Iranian people,” he said, according to Der Spiegel.

“The Trump administration can correct its past, lift the sanctions and come back to the negotiating table. We’re still at the negotiating table. They’re the ones who left.”

Trump has maintained that the 2015 nuclear deal needs to be renegotiated because it didn’t address Iran’s ballistic missile program or its missile activities in regional conflicts. The other signatories to the nuclear deal — Germany, France, Britain, China and Russia — have been struggling to keep it alive.

Following the U.S. drone strike Jan. 3 that killed Revolutionary Guard Gen. Qassem Soleimani, Iran announced it would no longer abide by any of the deal’s limitations on its nuclear activities. It then retaliated Jan. 8, launching ballistic missiles at two bases in Iraq hosting American troops, causing injuries but no fatalities among soldiers there.

Zarif did suggest Iran was also seeking a “dialogue” with the U.S., though was not specific.

“The U.S. has inflicted great harm on the Iranian people,” he said. “The day will come when they will have to compensate for that. We have a lot of patience.”
Little Big Town rides a wave of controversy to a Grammy nomination

“We got picketed one night at a concert. Somebody saying we were going to hell. I mean, you’re talking about four people who grew up with faith in the church.”

Karen Fairchild
Little Big Town

Striking a nerve

BY KRISTIN M. HALL
Associated Press

Little Big Town’s Grammy-nominated song “The Daughters” struck such a nerve with its pointed lyrics about double standards for women that a protester even showed up at one of their concerts.

“We got picketed one night,” joked singer Karen Fairchild.

The song, which they debuted at the Academy of Country Music Awards last April, features a chorus with the lyrics, “I’ve heard of God the son and God the father / I’m still looking for a God for the daughters.”

Some fans took offense, but Grammy voters nominated the track for best country duo/group performance — an award the band has won three times. Little Big Town will go up against songs by Brooks & Dunn featuring Luke Combs, Dan + Shay, Maren Morris featuring Brandi Carlile and Brothers Osborne during the awards show in Los Angeles on Jan. 26.

“We got picketed one night at a concert,” said Fairchild, who co-wrote the song. “Somebody saying we were going to hell. I mean, you’re talking about four people who grew up with faith in the church.”

Singer Kimberly Schlapman had one response to the protester: “No, we’re not.”

Fairchild, Schlapman, Jimi Westbrook and Phillip Sweet have had some experience with generating a bit of controversy with their songs, but it’s worked out well for them in the long run.

When “Girl Crush” initially hit the airwaves at the end of 2014, a small number of fans thought the lyrics were about a same-sex relationship. That didn’t slow the momentum of the song, however, which became a multi-platinum, multi-week No. 1 on Billboard’s Hot country songs chart and went on to win two Grammy Awards and two CMA Awards.

They felt certain “The Daughters” would find an audience, even without sending it to country radio, because of the timely message about how women are objectified.

“When Karen brought the song to us, I identified with every line, especially growing up in the South where those kinds of expectations are placed on young women,” Schlapman said.

“The Daughters” isn’t the only song with a message on their ninth studio album, “Nightfall,” which dropped Jan. 17. “Sugar Coat” examines the facades created to cover up fractures in a relationship, although those pearl-clutching listeners who were offended earlier might not like it when Fairchild sings the lyrics, “Go to hell.”

The orchestral string and piano ballad “Problem Child,” written by the foursome with co-writers Sean McConnell and Tofer Brown, is a call-out to lost and lonely children everywhere.

“That’s another song that speaks to a lot of what we’re seeing in the world, especially with young people feeling disenfranchised and feeling like they are outsiders, like they don’t belong, that they’re alone in their struggle,” said Westbrook, who is married to Fairchild.

“Having kids, that’s just an absolutely heartbreaking thought to me.”

After working for years with producer Jay Joyce, the group found themselves self-producing this time around and they take a light touch with instrumentation and production that lends the album an airy, dreamy and romantic feel.

“We’ve learned a lot about actually the space on the track being just as important as anything that’s going down,” Fairchild said.

The album opener, “Next to You,” features all four singing in unison and their close harmonies blend and build to a crescendo of choral voices, reminiscent of Arcade Fire.

“Because we were in the (vocal) booth together, we’re seeing each other breathe so that the phrasing is connected,” Fairchild explained.

They worked with some new co-writers including Daniel Tashian, best known for co-producing Kacey Musgraves’ Grammy-winning “Golden Hour,” and the Northern Irish artist Foy Vance, who is signed to Ed Sheeran’s label, helped them write a gospel-soul-country track, “Forever and a Night,” in which Sweet takes the vocal lead.

But the singers of “Pontoon” and “Day Drinking” know how to party as well, and they serve up the drinks and jam out to trumpets and marching drums on “Wine, Beer, Whiskey,” a reprise from some of the record’s moodier tracks.

“The trumpets started off as mouth trumpets in the (writing) room that day, and we were really close to making it mouth trumpets (on the track),” Westbrook said.

“Cause we think we’re really good at mouth trumpets,” added Schlapman.
**MUSIC REVIEWS**

### ‘Rare’ opportunity

**Gomez gets mid-career reset with new album**

By Allison Stewart
The Washington Post

Until the release of her newest and best album, “Rare,” Selena Gomez’s career as a pop singer was the least interesting thing about her. An actress, brand ambassador and one of the most followed celebrities on Instagram, Gomez has also been a reliable, if not thrilling, provider of whipsaw pop hits. Her often multi-tracked Mac is as thin as paper; she isn’t really a dancer, of whispery pop hits. Her often multi-tracked performances tend to look like hostage videos. In spite of, or maybe partly because of, her ambivalence toward pop Stardom and her triumphal backstory, Gomez inspires a fierce combination of affection and worry and protectiveness not seen since the turbulent heyday of fellow child performer-turned-pop star Britney Spears.

Like Spears, she devoted years to a famous Justin who was unworthy of her and publicly contended with mental and physical health issues (Gomez had a kidney transplant after being diagnosed with lupus and sought help for her depression and anxiety at an inpatient mental health facility).

In November, Gomez landed her first No. 1 hit, “Lose You to Love Me,” a skyscraping ballad about letting go of a toxic relationship to save herself. It’s not just a great song, it’s also a nitpicky summation of most of what Gomez has been singing about for years. It’s a “tl;dr” (“too long, didn’t read”) of her entire career. After years of skillfully made but forgettable pop, “Lose You” feels consequential and adult, the midcareer reset she feels more present and more central to its narrative than she has on any of her other adult-era releases. “I can’t believe I can be loud,” she sings, not loudly, on the album closer “A Sweeter Place,” an echo-y, torpid track that collaborator Tranter, who co-wrote the twin standout tracks “Cut You Off” (“Emotionally messin’ with my health / How could I confuse that s— for love?”) examines the resulting wreckage.

Gomez has the lead songwriting credit on every song, part of a vast scaffolding that undergirds “Rare.” Among the dozens of collaborators are several from her last album, “Revival,” including the songwriting team of Julia Michaels and Justin Tranter, who co-wrote the twin standout tracks here, “Lose You” and “Look at Her Now” (they also co-wrote Bieber’s career-defining “Sorry”).

Gomez doesn’t entirely inhabit this album, but she feels more present and more central to its narrative than she has on any of her other adult-era releases. “I can’t believe I can be loud,” she sings, not loudly, on the album closer “A Sweeter Place,” an echo-y, torpid track that collaborator Kid Cudi, whom no one would ever call lively, sings, not loudly, on the album closer “A Sweeter Place,” an echo-y, torpid track that collaborator

### Various artists

**Bad Boys for Life Original Motion Picture Soundtrack**
(Epic/We the Best Music)

Some soundtracks are as important to their movies as the actors delivering lines on-screen. But the “Bad Boys for Life” soundtrack is less of an unseen character, and more of a mood. And that mood is decidedly “fast-life Miami” — a perfectly adequate sonic backdrop for Mike Lowery (Will Smith) and Marcus Burnett (Martin Lawrence) to chase bad guys all over the Florida city. The soundtrack features hometown favorites, including Mr. 305 himself, Pitbull, on the Lil Jon-assisted anthem “Dang I Love Miami.” Then there’s Rick Ross alongside Bryson Tiller on “Future Bright,” which samples ’90s R&B hit “Touch Me, Tease Me” by Case.

In true Miami fashion, the musical influence covers a few different lanes. Buju Banton delivers dancehall flavor on “Mind Reader,” featuring Puerto Rican singer Farruko. Jaden Smith pops up twice on the soundtrack and he’s enjoyable — but not groundbreaking: He has a solo titled “Hottest” and he appears on the club-ready “RITMØ” (Bad Boys for Life (Remix),” with The Black Eyed Peas and J Balvin.

Overall, the “Bad Boys for Life” soundtrack does its job — abounding in references to cash, clothes and cars, all set to lively production. And while the set lacks unforgettable lyrics, the upbeat energy is a perfect fit. Sometimes, good enough is good enough.

— Melanie J. Sims
Associated Press

### Mac Miller

**Circles (Warner Bros.)**

“Why does everybody need me to stay?” Mac Miller asks on the first single from his latest release. He answered his own question with the superb posthumous “Circles.”

Miller’s 12-track album is heartbreaking sublime, a portrait of a wry and honest musician acknowledging his demons but looking past them. “I’m here to make it all better with a little music for you,” he sings.

Miller died of an accidental drug overdose in 2018 at 26 and was working on “Circles” as a sort of companion album to his Grammy-nominated “Swimming.”

Producer Jon Brion, who worked on “Swimming” and also produced for Kanye West and Dido, was asked to finish Miller’s work.

“Circles” shares the appealing confessional lyrics of “Swimming” but is more muted and understated. Miller was always an idiosyncratic artist, mixing hip-hop beats and samples with soul and warm funk, even jazz. Here, he is low-key, moody, spacey and anesthetized. He sings more than he raps. There’s nothing flashy. Everything’s thoughtful.

“Woods,” which flows on a bed of airy synths, is Miller at his most seductive, funny and mature. It’s remarkable to look back and listen to his cluttered and more juvenile stuff of just seven years ago. Miller’s evocative voice even tries at a tender falsetto in “Surf,” with the optimistic lines: “Until we get old / There’s water in the flowers / Let’s go.” That he didn’t get a chance to grow himself is a tragedy that this album only somewhat alleviates.

— Mark Kennedy
Associated Press

### Marcus King

**El Dorado (Fantasy Records)**

Marcus King’s solo debut is an enticing mix of deep soul, rock and country in the best Southern traditions.

King, though just 23 years old, has been a professional musician for more than a decade and already has three albums with the Marcus King Band.

Produced and co-written by Dan Auerbach of The Black Keys, “El Dorado” is a smoothly-paced release, heavy on the mellow sound and more nuanced singing and guitar work.

You could say King has been “Auerbachized” with the producer’s distinct approach — shaped by recording in his own Easy Eye Sound Studio in Nashville and relying on the timeless talent of legends like drummer Gene Chrisman, bassist David Roe

— Pablo Gorondi
Associated Press

**Murda She Wrote,** and Meek Mill exudes vacation vibes over a Latin-influenced beat on “Uptown II,” featuring Puerto Rican singer Farruko. Jaden Smith pops up twice on the soundtrack and he’s enjoyable — but not groundbreaking: He has a solo titled “Hottest” and he appears on the club-ready “RITMÓ” (Bad Boys for Life (Remix),” with The Black Eyed Peas and J Balvin.

Overall, the “Bad Boys for Life” soundtrack does its job — abounding in references to cash, clothes and cars, all set to lively production. And while the set lacks unforgettable lyrics, the upbeat energy is a perfect fit. Sometimes, good enough is good enough.

— Melanie J. Sims
Associated Press
NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

STATE OF CONFUSION
BY EVAN MAHNIKEN AND DAVID STRINBERG / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Evon Mahniiken is a high school chemistry teacher in Andover, Mass. David Strinberg is a puzzle-and-quiz editor for Andrews McMeel Universal syndicate in Kansas City, Mo. They're in each other's Toast of the town for crossword puzzlers. They've created this crossword together with M's theme editor. They collaborated on the grids by sending each other clues and themes by email. — W.S.

ACROSS
1 Some Japanese cars
7 Bajau king in Matthew
12 Medical-insurance FTP
15 Freedom of the ___
19 Like a short play
20 Brick material
21 Sushi fish that's never served raw
22 School with its own ZIP code — 80095
23 Voice box
[60-Wolverine State]
26-33 Across sound
27 "Dang!"
28 Like a soufflé
29 ___ Koa
30 2014 film with the tagline "One dream can change the world"
31 Losers
33 Safari sighting
[Golden State]
35 Captain of science fiction
36 Spelun
38 Wriggles
39 Rehearsed
42 Device that keeps fish alive
44 Pay a brief visit
48 Stashed (for later)
[Blue Bus State]
53 Whom a warrant officer might report to, informally
54 ___ (San Francisco
55 Letters on an ambulance
56 Times before the present?
58 Reveler of the Wind
59 Following, as a detective might
63 Gave up the ghost
66 It's condemned
67 Edret's Still
[Mountain State]
72 Banned pollutant, for short
74 West Coast birthplace of John Steinbeck
75 Like some candles
76 "No way, José!"
80 Fairy-tale prince, perhaps
81 "There it is"
84 Big Island city
85 Events for socialites
87 Knight's accompaniment
[Ocean State]
92 Brother or sister
95 School
96 ___ Schwartz (toy company)
97 Like some wallpaper patterns
100 In which a single raised pünker is an "I": Abbé
101 Wilbur's partner in an old album
103 Sushi bar offering
[Centennial State]
107 Coconuts and others
111 Pitié! Threatening after training is finished
112 Facelifted
113 Detach slowly (from)
114 Hit flamboyantly on the nose, slangy
115 Rights-defending org.
116 Has been around the block (Evergreen State)
119 What looks are made of
120 Hawaiian word that's also a common Chinese surname
121 Layers
122 Ready for publication, say 123 "Like that'll ever happen!"
124 Leavis to Brown or Robinson in No. 1 song titles
125 Spot on a range
126 Not for ___ (sign)

DOWN
1 Disney heroine of 2016
2 Irate
3 Cocktail garnishes
4 ___ City, Yukon Territory
5 Neil
6 Bit of party decoration
7 Pat up
8 Pushing the envelope
9 Letters after CDr
10 Most of the 2010s
11 Susman's order
12 Tush
13 Poss a danger to
14 Cry with an accent
15 Emphatic rejection
16 Food inspector test for it
17 Thrifty competitor
18 Sticky roll
24 Beuh
25 Let fly
30 One leaving a trail
32 What scared horses do
34 "That's so sweet!"
36 Article
37 Make up a Hailstorm
39 Exam for the college-bound
40 ___ foris (another name for sable wold)
41 Noted export from Holland
43 Something North Carolina's Alcohol Law Enforcement patrol
45 Charlie Brown catchphrase
46 Ask the obvious question, so to speak
47 "Ouch!"
49 Indolent
50 ___ here?"
51 Mountain
52 Reading on the dashboard of the Delorean in "Back to the Future"
57 Improve off
58 Red, agency that helped take down Al Capone
61 Secretive org.
62 Wide gap
63 Walgreens rival
64 Symbol for viscosity in chemistry
65 Short swim
66 What physics put on Ward before cop or show
70 Shakespearean schmear
71 Classic pop brand
72 Placed dogs
73 Kind of tea
76 "Moon Man," 2001 novel with an alphabetically funny title
77 Dummy
78 Setting for some pickup basketball
81 Uses sigma notation, in calculus
82 Tie
83 Nelson Mandela's org.
86 George Elliot's "___ Barret"
88 It's no bull
89 Missionary, son of Bob
90 Outlander
91 Command to a dog
93 Go-ahead
94 Many a dad joke
95 Stella (imported beer)
97 Big name in theaters
102 Floreat and jetaam
103 Japan's largest brewer
104 English class quiz subject, informally
105 Skateboard jump
106 Imitates Daffy Duck, in a way
107 Many a founding father, religiously
108 Terra
109 Dry (olf)
110 One chime
113 "This is fun!"
115 Airline with a crown in its logo
117-18, for one
118 Something that might accompany a dedication

RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE

GUNSTON STREET
"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and visit gunstonstreet.com.
**Free divorce offered for Valentine’s Day**

**TN MURFREESBORO** — A Tennessee attorney is giving away free divorce representation to one client for Valentine’s Day.

W. Scott Kimberly said in a news release on the giveaway that for many people Valentine’s Day is “another reminder that they remain trapped in a relationship that they cannot leave because of financial problems, because of a spouse who refuses to agree to a divorce, or for some other reason.”

This is the third year the Murfreesboro divorce attorney will give away his services. The Daily News Journal reported. Last year, Kimberly selected two winners, saying he had a hard time narrowing down the entries. Applicants are asked to share the story of why they want a divorce. Applications are accepted through Valentine’s Day with a winner selected on Feb. 17.

**Theft from armless artist spurs donations**

**GA ATHENS** — Hundreds of people have shown their support for an armless street artist whose artwork, supplies and donation box were stolen near the University of Georgia.

Nearly $34,000 had been raised online for Michael Davenport, who is known in Athens for sketching the university’s bulldog mascot. He holds a pen in his mouth to create the artworks because he lost his arms as a child.

Davenport, 53, said his belongings were stolen on Jan. 15, when he took a break to use the restroom at a nearby business.

**Woman arrested for defecating in parking lot**

**MA NATICK** — A woman accused of defecating in a Massachusetts parking lot more than a dozen times was arrested.

Natick police arrested Andrea Grocer, 51, of Ashland in the parking lot of an outdoor store, The Mount West Daily reported.

Natick Outdoor Store owner Henry Kanner said he was “so happy” that authorities arrested her.

“She has defecated quite often over here. There’s nothing more disgusting coming into your parking lot in the morning and seeing a pile of human feces.”

**Deputy settles a beef between K9 and cow**

**SC GEORGETOWN** — A sheriff’s deputy responding to a burglary call in South Carolina was forced to evacuate a beef between his K9 and a spooked cow by using a stun gun.

Georgetown County sheriff’s deputies were dispatched to the Pleasant Hill community when a K9 that was brought to the scene reportedly became “distracted” and bit a cow belonging to the property owners, a statement from the agency said. The officer was forced to stun the dog to prevent the cow from being seriously injured, the office said.

At the end of it all — the sheriff’s office determined the original burglary call was unfounded.

**Theft from armless artist spurs donations**

**VA LEESBURG** — A Virginia man was forced to stun his K9 to prevent the dog from attacking a cow that refused to leave the scene of a burglary.

Deputy Gabriel Rasnick settled a beef between his K9 and a cow inside a pipe-theft attempt.

**Church organ damaged in pipe-theft attempt**

**NY FREEHOLD** — Parishioners at a New Jersey church will worship Sunday without the sound of their organ after it was damaged when someone tried to steal its pipes.

The pastor of the First United Methodist Church of Freehold discovered the damage to the decades-old instrument. The pipes were ripped out and piled in front of the organ, which was dedicated in 1967.

Pastor Wil Wilson wrote on Facebook that the damage, which was estimated at between $15,000 to $20,000, was “shocking and disturbing.”

Wilson wrote he was thankful no one was injured and nothing was stolen.

**Woman sentenced for killing blamed on spirits**

**NV LAS VEGAS** — A Nevada woman who said she shot a gun at spirits who attacked her roommate was sentenced to prison for the man’s fatal shooting.

Kiahna Hawkins, 30, was sentenced to 11 to 28 years in a Nevada prison, KVVU-TV reported.

Hawkins was convicted of murder and entered a plea agreement.

Andrea D. Smith, 49, was found dead May 3 in the North Las Vegas apartment he shared with Hawkins.

The Clark County Coroner’s Office found Smith died of a gunshot wound to the head and ruled the death a homicide.

North Las Vegas police were called to the apartment after Hawkins told emergency dispatchers she believed spirits had killed her roommate, a police report said.

Hawkins told police spirits appeared in the room with Smith, including one that came out of his body. She compared the experience to being “in a virtual reality video game.”

Hawkins told officers she shot a spirit in self-defense, the report said.

**Man jailed for 911 calls about drone over home**

**AR HOT SPRINGS** — An Arkansas man remained caged after authorities alleged he admitted using meth and then repeatedly called 911 to falsely report that a “military-style drone” was flying over his house.

The Sentinel-Record reported Lance Lee Pace called 911 after reportedly “hearing buzzing noises” over his house in Hot Springs for about an hour.

Pace allegedly admitted to a Garland County sheriff’s deputy he had “smorted meth” about an hour before calling 911, according to a probable cause affidavit.

**‘World’s worst cat’ is up for adoption**

**RC BAKERSVILLE** — The “world’s worst cat” is available for adoption — just ask the Mitchell County Animal Rescue organization in North Carolina.

The shelter is waiving adoption fees in the hope that someone will take the cat named Perdita off their hands.

The group said on its Facebook page, “We thought she was sick. Turns out she’s just a jerk.”

A tongue-in-cheek profile of the foul-tempered feline says her dislikes include “dogs, children, the Dixie Chicks, Disney movies, Christmas and last but NOT least ... HUGS.” It says she likes lurking, pretending to be sick and “starting into your soul until you feel as if you may never be cheerful again ...”

It adds, “She’s single and ready to be socially awkward with a sociably awkward human who understands personal space.”

From wire reports
FBI abused its powers with spying on Page

By David Ignatius
Washington Post Writers Group

WASHINGTON

America weighs abuses of power in this season of impeachment. And it’s worth taking a careful second look at the FBI’s behavior in its “Crossfire Hurricane” investigation of the Trump campaign in 2016. Republicans are outraged by what happened, and Democrats should be, too.

It is true that the Special Counsel and those of Donald Trump’s. Quite the opposite: Reckless statements by Trump and his advisors during the 2016 campaign wor-
ried the FBI so much that officials began making bad decisions and covering up their mistakes. The specks gotspooked.

But the FBI’s efforts have found to be a par-

it’s especially important for Trump critics, ever-

s atime we’re seeing the Trump era drawing to an end, and there’s(calculation)

But the inquiry began to jump the tracks

Yes, of course, impeachment has been top of

impeachment drumbeat did

And then the “Access Hollywood” crotch-

The response is, as it should be, Yes,

In short, Republicans have been trying

But the Senate uses the public roll call,

It is clear that the Republicans

But the dynamism the party once showed,

For all its flaws, the Senate’s decision to

And then the “Access Hollywood” crotch-

But the inquiry began to jump the tracks

And then the “Access Hollywood” crotch-

But the inquiry began to jump the tracks

But the inquiry began to jump the tracks
**S T A R S  a n d  S T R I P E S**

**Pro football**

**NFL playoffs**

- Wild-card Playoffs: Jan. 10
  - Indianapolis Colts vs. Tennessee Titans
  - Buffalo Bills vs. Baltimore Ravens
  - New York Giants vs. Philadelphia Eagles
  - New Orleans Saints vs. Los Angeles Rams

- Divisional Round: Jan. 17
  - New England Patriots vs. Tennessee Titans
  - Kansas City Chiefs vs. San Francisco 49ers
  - New Orleans Saints vs. Los Angeles Rams
  - San Francisco 49ers vs. New York Giants

- Conference Championship Games: Jan. 24
  - AFC: New England Patriots vs. Tennessee Titans
  - NFC: Los Angeles Rams vs. San Francisco 49ers

- Super Bowl LIV: LVII, Miami Gardens, Fla., Feb. 2

- Week 17 games: Sunday, Dec. 22
  - New England Patriots vs. Miami Dolphins
  - Buffalo Bills vs. Baltimore Ravens
  - New York Jets vs. New York Giants
  - New Orleans Saints vs. Carolina Panthers
  - Los Angeles Rams vs. Arizona Cardinals

- Week 18 games: Sunday, Dec. 29
  - New England Patriots vs. Miami Dolphins
  - Buffalo Bills vs. Baltimore Ravens
  - New York Jets vs. New York Giants
  - New Orleans Saints vs. Carolina Panthers
  - Los Angeles Rams vs. Arizona Cardinals

**FIFA**

- World Cup: June 14-July 15

**College basketball**

- Men’s: Friday’s scores
  - Baruch 90, CCNY 56
  - California 98, San Jose, Calif. 69
  - Florida Atlantic 98, Georgia Southern 79
  - Georgia Southern 91, North Florida 71
  - Idaho 86, Colorado State 75
  - Jackson State 82, San Diego State 65
  - Kentucky 85, Alabama 75
  - Liberty 83, Iowa 79
  - Louisiana 87, Florida Atlantic 61
  - Loyola Chicago 82, Vermont 74
  - North Carolina 85, Minnesota 72
  - Oregon 82, California 80
  - Providence 85, Xavier 69
  - St. Louis 87, Hofstra 74
  - Texas Tech 85, Iowa State 74
  - Tulane 88, La Salle 76
  - Western Illinois 81, Loyola Chicago 73
  - Wichita State 88, Missouri State 76

- Women’s: Friday’s scores
  - Boise State 67, Utah 53
  - Connecticut 72, Tulane 59
  - Georgia 77, Tennessee-Martin 62
  - North Carolina 72, Davidson 69
  - Oklahoma State 70, New Mexico State 53
  - South Carolina 75, Texas Tech 69
  - Stanford 80, Arizona 72
  - Texas 81, Alabama 77
  - Tulane 78, South Alabama 61
  - Xavier 89, Rhode Island 79

**College soccer**

- Men’s: Thursday, Dec. 26
  - Ohio State 1-0, Michigan 0

- Women’s: Thursday, Dec. 26
  - Arizona 1-0, Oregon 0

**College football**

- Bowl schedule
  - Friday, Dec. 20
    - Fresno (Vallejo) (FCS) vs. San Jose State (FBS)
  - Saturday, Dec. 21
    - New Mexico Bowl: New Mexico State vs. Florida Atlantic
    - Independence Bowl: Louisiana Tech vs. Miami (Ohio)
    - Texas Bowl: Pittsburgh vs. Oklahoma State
    - Military Bowl: Navy vs. Boston College
    - Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum: California vs. Oregon
  - Sunday, Dec. 22
    - Arizona Bowl: New Mexico vs. Montana State
  - Monday, Dec. 23
    - Georgia State Bowl: Georgia vs. Louisiana Tech
    - Georgia Southern Bowl: Georgia Southern vs. Florida
    - Kentucky Bowl: Kentucky vs. Western Kentucky
    - Louisiana-Lafayette Bowl: Louisiana-Lafayette vs. Arizona State
    - Montgomery Bowl: Tennessee vs. Virginia
    - Rutgers Bowl: Rutgers vs. Temple
    - Sun Bowl: Texas vs. Arizona State
  - Tuesday, Dec. 24
    - New Mexico Bowl: New Mexico vs. Montana State
    - Texas Bowl: Pittsburgh vs. Oklahoma State
    - Military Bowl: Navy vs. Boston College
    - Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum: California vs. Oregon
  - Wednesday, Dec. 25
    - Arizona Bowl: New Mexico vs. Montana State
  - Thursday, Dec. 26
    - Independence Bowl: Louisiana Tech vs. Miami (Ohio)
    - Texas Bowl: Pittsburgh vs. Oklahoma State
  - Friday, Dec. 27
    - South Florida vs. Coastal Carolina

**NFL**

- Trades
  - Friday, Dec. 20
    - LHP Nick Margevicius off waivers from Cleveland
    - Reggie McClain for assignment. Claimed by Arizona
  - Friday, Dec. 27
    - Cooper Crain from waivers to active roster

**MLB**

- Spring training:
  - All camps
    - Feb. 14-15
    - Feb. 18-19
  - First full-squad workouts:
    - Feb. 16-17

- Cactus League:
  - Sept. 22-23

- Opening day:
  - March 26

**College basketball**

- Men’s: Friday’s scores
  - California 98, San Jose, Calif. 69
  - Florida Atlantic 98, Georgia Southern 79
  - Georgia Southern 91, North Florida 71
  - Idaho 86, Colorado State 75
  - Jackson State 82, San Diego State 65
  - Kentucky 85, Alabama 75
  - Liberty 83, Iowa 79
  - Louisiana 87, Florida Atlantic 61
  - Loyola Chicago 82, Vermont 74
  - Minnesota 87, Iowa 71
  - New Mexico 84, California State 62
  - Northern Illinois 84, Bowling Green 60
  - North Carolina 85, Minnesota 72
  - Oregon 82, California 80
  - Providence 85, Xavier 69
  - St. Louis 87, Hofstra 74
  - Texas Tech 85, Iowa State 74
  - Tulane 88, La Salle 76
  - Western Illinois 81, Loyola Chicago 73
  - Wichita State 88, Missouri State 76

**College basketball**

- Women’s: Friday’s scores
  - Boise State 67, Utah 53
  - Connecticut 72, Tulane 59
  - Georgia 77, Tennessee-Martin 62
  - North Carolina 72, Davidson 69
  - Oklahoma State 70, New Mexico State 53
  - South Carolina 75, Texas Tech 69
  - Stanford 80, Arizona 72
  - Texas 81, Alabama 77
  - Tulane 78, South Alabama 61
  - Xavier 89, Rhode Island 79

**FIFA**

- World Cup: June 14-July 15

**NFL**

- Trades
  - Friday, Dec. 20
    - LHP Nick Margevicius off waivers from Cleveland
    - Reggie McClain for assignment. Claimed by Arizona

**MLB**

- Spring training:
  - All camps
    - Feb. 14-15
    - Feb. 18-19
  - First full-squad workouts:
    - Feb. 16-17

- Cactus League:
  - Sept. 22-23

- Opening day:
  - March 26

**College basketball**

- Men’s: Friday’s scores
  - California 98, San Jose, Calif. 69
  - Florida Atlantic 98, Georgia Southern 79
  - Georgia Southern 91, North Florida 71
  - Idaho 86, Colorado State 75
  - Jackson State 82, San Diego State 65
  - Kentucky 85, Alabama 75
  - Liberty 83, Iowa 79
  - Louisiana 87, Florida Atlantic 61
  - Loyola Chicago 82, Vermont 74
  - Minnesota 87, Iowa 71
  - New Mexico 84, California State 62
  - Northern Illinois 84, Bowling Green 60
  - North Carolina 85, Minnesota 72
  - Oregon 82, California 80
  - Providence 85, Xavier 69
  - St. Louis 87, Hofstra 74
  - Texas Tech 85, Iowa State 74
  - Tulane 88, La Salle 76
  - Western Illinois 81, Loyola Chicago 73
  - Wichita State 88, Missouri State 76
By Michael Marot
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — When No. 13 Butler needed scoring punch Friday night, Kamar Baldwin came up with a flurry.

He delivered the knockout punch, too.

The senior guard scored the Bulldogs’ final nine points of regulation, erasing a six-point deficit in the final 2 ½ minutes, then added 10 more in overtime as Butler rallied for a remarkable 89-85 victory over Marquette.

“We just hang together like we’re going to get the job done, just encourage one another to fight through it,” Baldwin said.

Things easily could have gone the other way for the Bulldogs.

With just more than a minute left in regulation and things tied at 76, Butler trailed 75-72, but Baldwin rendered it irrelevant by scoring the Bulldogs’ final nine points of regulation, finishing with a dramatic three-pointer at the buzzer. He then added 10 more in overtime, eventually closing it out at the free-throw line.

**Big blunder**

After all the twists and turns of Friday’s game, Wojciechowski blamed himself for the loss.

The reason: With the score tied at 68, Baldwin grabbed a defensive rebound with 26 seconds left, dribbled up the court and was fouled six seconds later. Baldwin made the first to give Butler the lead before missing the second.

But Wojciechowski thought the Eagles trailed by two.

“The last time I looked at the scoreboard, it was a two-point game so I screwed up,” he said. “I made a mistake. There was some confusion on the bench and I have to be better than confusion and I wasn’t and that’s fully on me.”

**Briefly**

Keuchel apologizes for Astros’ sign-stealing scandal

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Dallas Keuchel has become the first member of the 2017 Houston Astros to offer a public apology for the team’s sign-stealing scandal that led to its 2017 World Series championship.

Speaking Friday at the fan convention for the Chicago White Sox, who signed the left-hander to a $55.5 million, three-year contract in December, Keuchel said he felt it was necessary to apologize.

“Fiers declined Friday to answer questions for the Astros about revealing the sign-stealing role as a whistleblower.”

Keuchel apologizes for Astros’ sign-stealing scandal

Associated Press

Friday night, Kamar Baldwin put his head down and made play after play, finishing with 31 points and eight rebounds — both matching season highs — as well as five assists.

And that wasn’t even the most impressive part.

“Markus Howard is really good. Other guys in this league are really good and he’s as good as any of them,” Butler coach LaVall Jordan said. “He made some big shots, but I thought defensively it was as big as anything.”

Howard scored 18 points in the first half when Marquette took a 39-35 lead.

But with Baldwin and Henry Baddley taking turns defending Howard in the second half, Howard only had eight points in the final 25 minutes, finishing with 26 points.

“They made incredible winning plays,” coach Steve Wojciechowski said after Marquette’s three-game winning streak ended.

“They have a really connected group and they have Markus Howard, who, at the end of the game, we didn’t have an answer for.”

Marquette seemed to be in control when it opened up a 51-42 lead with 13:41 left in regulation and still appeared to be in good shape when it led 68-62 with 2:36 to go.

But Baldwin scored the next nine to give Butler a 71-68 lead.

Koby McEwen’s three-pointer tied it with 2.9 seconds left. After Baldwin’s errant three at the buzzer, he didn’t miss many more.

Baldwin scored nine of Butler’s first 11 points in overtime and eventually closed it out at the free-throw line.

Whitney leaving Kentucky

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Kentucky freshman forward Khalil Whitney says on his verified Twitter account that his time at the school “has not gone as I had hoped” and that he will leave the No. 15 Wildcats.

In other skiing news:

Matthias Mayer won the classic World Cup downhill on the Streif course at Kitzbühel, Austria, on Saturday, becoming the first Austrian winner of the event in six years.

In cloudy conditions but on a perfect track, Mayer crowned a gutsy run by finishing 0.22 ahead of Austrian teammate Vincent Kriechmayr and Switzerland’s Beat Feuz, who tied for second.

Humphries nears bobsled title

KONIGSSEE, Germany — Kaillie Humphries and Humphries finished their two runs in 1 minute, 41.57 seconds for an extremely close victory. Germany took second and third, with Laura Nolte and Erline Nolte crossing in 1:41.60 and Stephania Schneider and Christina-Ann Strack in 1:41.66.

It was Humphries’ 25th career World Cup race win.

Humphries has a 48-point lead over Schmeider with two races left in the World Cup season. A pair of silver medals in those last two races — or a victory combined with another top-seven finish — would be enough for Humphries to clinch the points title, no matter what Schneider does the rest of the way.
Roundup

Westbrook scores 45 to lead Rockets

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Russell Westbrook scored a season-high 45 points and added six rebounds, but the Atlanta Hawks held on for a 131-124 win over Minnesota.

Westbrook helped key a second-half comeback after Minnesota had taken a 16-point lead in the third quarter.

The Hawks rallied to a 13-12 win over host New Orleans. The Pelicans dropped to 17-12...

Giannis, Bucks thrill in Paris

PARIS — With the world’s two most expensive soccer players cheering him on in Paris on Friday night, Giannis Antetokounmpo took a while to entertain them.

The Greek star found his rhythm late in the game and had 30 points and 12 rebounds to help the Bucks beat the Hornets 116-103 for their eighth straight win.

The first NBA regular-season game in France drew free fans to the Bercy Arena, among them Paris Saint-Germain star Neymar and Kylian Mbappé — France’s World Cup-winning stars.

“It’s insane. The crazy part is that we’re really big fans of them and we’re fans of the team. You never expect them to know who we are and what we do, and they’re big fans of the team. That was amazing they came to the game. They came to the locker room afterwards, we exchanged jerseys, took pictures with them.”

Milwaukee improved to 13-8-1 on the season. The Bucks remain in second place in the Central Division.

“I only practiced once before the game. I’m not going to get into a rhythm. We weren’t moving the ball as much,” said Antetokounmpo, who had his fourth triple-double of the season on Monday against the Chicago Bulls. “Hopefully, we can learn from the game. Close to the third quarter the bench came back in and we did a great job. In the fourth quarter we were able to close out the game.”


Giannis, Bucks thrill in Paris

PARIS — With the world’s two most expensive soccer players cheering him on in Paris on Friday night, Giannis Antetokounmpo took a while to entertain them.

The Greek star found his rhythm late in the game and had 30 points and 12 rebounds to help the Bucks beat the Hornets 116-103 for their eighth straight win.

The first NBA regular-season game in France drew free fans to the Bercy Arena, among them Paris Saint-Germain star Neymar and Kylian Mbappé — France’s World Cup-winning stars.

“It’s insane. The crazy part is that we’re really big fans of them and we’re fans of the team. You never expect them to know who we are and what we do, and they’re big fans of the team. That was amazing they came to the game. They came to the locker room afterwards, we exchanged jerseys, took pictures with them.”

Milwaukee improved to 13-8-1 on the season. The Bucks remain in second place in the Central Division.

“I only practiced once before the game. I’m not going to get into a rhythm. We weren’t moving the ball as much,” said Antetokounmpo, who had his fourth triple-double of the season on Monday against the Chicago Bulls. “Hopefully, we can learn from the game. Close to the third quarter the bench came back in and we did a great job. In the fourth quarter we were able to close out the game.”


Giannis, Bucks thrill in Paris

PARIS — With the world’s two most expensive soccer players cheering him on in Paris on Friday night, Giannis Antetokounmpo took a while to entertain them.

The Greek star found his rhythm late in the game and had 30 points and 12 rebounds to help the Bucks beat the Hornets 116-103 for their eighth straight win.

The first NBA regular-season game in France drew free fans to the Bercy Arena, among them Paris Saint-Germain star Neymar and Kylian Mbappé — France’s World Cup-winning stars.

“It’s insane. The crazy part is that we’re really big fans of them and we’re fans of the team. You never expect them to know who we are and what we do, and they’re big fans of the team. That was amazing they came to the game. They came to the locker room afterwards, we exchanged jerseys, took pictures with them.”

Milwaukee improved to 13-8-1 on the season. The Bucks remain in second place in the Central Division.

“I only practiced once before the game. I’m not going to get into a rhythm. We weren’t moving the ball as much,” said Antetokounmpo, who had his fourth triple-double of the season on Monday against the Chicago Bulls. “Hopefully, we can learn from the game. Close to the third quarter the bench came back in and we did a great job. In the fourth quarter we were able to close out the game.”


Giannis, Bucks thrill in Paris

PARIS — With the world’s two most expensive soccer players cheering him on in Paris on Friday night, Giannis Antetokounmpo took a while to entertain them.

The Greek star found his rhythm late in the game and had 30 points and 12 rebounds to help the Bucks beat the Hornets 116-103 for their eighth straight win.

The first NBA regular-season game in France drew free fans to the Bercy Arena, among them Paris Saint-Germain star Neymar and Kylian Mbappé — France’s World Cup-winning stars.

“It’s insane. The crazy part is that we’re really big fans of them and we’re fans of the team. You never expect them to know who we are and what we do, and they’re big fans of the team. That was amazing they came to the game. They came to the locker room afterwards, we exchanged jerseys, took pictures with them.”

Milwaukee improved to 13-8-1 on the season. The Bucks remain in second place in the Central Division.

“I only practiced once before the game. I’m not going to get into a rhythm. We weren’t moving the ball as much,” said Antetokounmpo, who had his fourth triple-double of the season on Monday against the Chicago Bulls. “Hopefully, we can learn from the game. Close to the third quarter the bench came back in and we did a great job. In the fourth quarter we were able to close out the game.”

More than a half-century later, Tommie Smith and John Carlos, right, raise their gloved fists after Smith received the gold and Carlos the bronze for the 200-meter run at the Summer Olympic Games in Mexico City in 1968.

By Eddie Pells
Associated Press

More than a half-century later, Tommie Smith and John Carlos, right, raise their gloved fists after Smith received the gold and Carlos the bronze for the 200-meter run at the Summer Olympic Games in the United States, their portrait an indelible fixture on the universal sports landscape.

As for that raised-fist salute that transformed them into Olympic icons, while also symbolizing the power athletes possess for the short time they’re on their biggest stage — it’s still forbidden.

Such was the warning this month in the announcement by the IOC, whose athletes’ commission banned kneeling and hand gestures during medals ceremonies. It’s all part of an attempt to tamp down political demonstrations at this summer’s Tokyo Games.

“The eyes of the world will be on the athletes and the Olympic Games,” IOC President Thomas Bach said, in delivering an impassioned defense of the rules. IOC athlete’s rep Kirsty Coventry portrayed the guidance as a way to provide some clarity on an issue that has confounded both athletes and authorities for decades.

The issue, always bubbling, surfaced last year when two U.S. athletes — Gwen Berry and Race Imboden — used medal ceremonies to make political statements at the Pan American Games. Those gestures brought a strong rebuke from the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic committees, but the groups still appear confused and conflicted about the entire matter.

(The USOPC didn’t welcome Smith and Carlos to an officially sanctioned event until 2016).

The IOC got its athletes’ commission, which has often contradicted key athlete movements in other Olympic areas, to get out front on the issue and offer its advice. It was essentially no different from what the IOC itself has been touting for years. Not surprisingly, some view it as an out-of-touch, retrograde attempt to stifle an increasingly outspoken generation of athletes.

The mushrooming of live TV, to say nothing of the outlets now available on social media, has empowered athletes — the best examples from recent years would be Colin Kaepernick and Megan Rapinoe, but there are dozens more — to use sports to send a message.

Rapinoe’s reaction to the IOC announcement: “We will not be silenced.” As much as her play, Rapinoe’s outspoken fight for equal pay for the U.S. women’s soccer team underscored the American victory in the World Cup last year and made her, in the minds of many, the most influential athlete of 2019.

“So much being done about the protests,” Rapinoe wrote on Instagram last weekend. “So little being done about what we are protesting about.”

The athletes’ commission said disciplinary action would be taken “on a case-by-case basis as necessary” and listed the IOC, the sports federations and the athletes’ national governing bodies as those who will have authority to make the call. It made no mention of what the sanctions could be. In that respect, it added confusion, and might have served to emphasize the power disparity between the athletes, who are the show, and the agencies who run this multibillion-dollar enterprise and, for all intents and purposes, control the invitation list.

Among the other questions not answered in the guidance document:

Who, exactly, will adjudicate the individual cases and how will cases be adjudicated?

Who, exactly, will have ultimate responsibility for implementing sanctions?

While those questions went unanswered, the document included the reminder that “it is a fundamental principle that sport is neutral and must be separate from political, religious or any other type of interference.”

That concept, however, runs counter to a long thread of Olympics-politics storylines that have dominated the movement.

A truncated list includes:

- Hitler’s hosting of the 1936 Games (winter and summer) in Nazi Germany.
- The 1972 massacre of Israeli athletes during the Munich Games.
- The U.S. boycott of the 1980 Moscow Olympics, followed by the Soviet Union’s boycott of the 1984 Los Angeles Games.
- The IOC’s awarding of the 2008 Olympics to Beijing, in part compelled by promises to shine a light on the country’s attempt to improve human rights.

More recently, Bach has found the committee a permanent place at the United Nations, used the PyeongChang Games in South Korea to strive for better relations between the Koreans and spent ample time negotiating deals with leaders who have been kind enough to spend billions to stage the Olympics.

Though the IOC would argue that there are still places to make political statements in the Olympic space — news conferences and social media among them — it does not condone them on the field of play or the medals stand. It made all more the striking the picture the IOC tweeted out last Monday: Bach posing on a mountain with athletes in uniform from the United States and Iran at the Youth Olympic Games — a political statement during a time of strife that is designed to forward the long-held IOC-driven credo that the Olympics promote peace.

Peace itself is dependent on politics, and the people who run the Olympics are well connected to that world. Fewer than nine members of IOC itself are princes, princesses, dukes or sheiks — and that list doesn’t include the multitude of government officials involved in organizations that branch out of the IOC. For instance, half the World Anti-Doping Agency’s board comes from governments across the globe.

Bach has singled out political concerns as a major divider in the Russian doping scandal that has embroiled the Olympics the past five years — implying it’s as much an East vs. West issue as one based on decisions that stem from painstakingly accumulated evidence.

The latest move comes in the run-up to what figures to be a divisive election year in the United States, the country that sends the largest contingent to the Olympics, wins the most medals and often lands some of the most outspoken athletes on the podium.

Smith and Carlos were booted from Mexico City after their protest. If history — to say nothing of Rapinoe’s reaction — is any guide, the IOC could be placed in the position to decide whether to make that same sort of statement again.
Kyle Busch has eye on 5 more titles

By Jenna Fryer
Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — He way Kyle Busch sees it, there is a flaw in the NASCAR awards system: he can compete in the lower series.

It lacks any indication that the 2019 title was actually his second championship. Busch wants it fixed so it displays exactly what he’s earned. He has studied the issue and knows the New England Patriots created a ring that showcases their six Super Bowl victories.

When his career is over, Busch wants just one ring to encapsulate his accomplishments. He insists he will close his career alongside greats Richard Petty, Dale Earnhardt and Jimmie Johnson.

And he doesn’t have seven Cup Series titles.

“Not yet I don’t,” Busch said with a wink.

Busch’s bid for a third championship doesn’t begin until Feb. 16 at the Daytona 500, a race he desperately wants to win. Busch is 0-for-14 in “The Great American Race” with a bitter runner-up finish to Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Denny Hamlin in last year’s 1-2 Gibbs sweep.

He has won at every active NASCAR track except The Roval at Charlotte Motor Speedway yet his 56 career Cup victories do not include the Daytona 500. His warm-up begins this weekend at the Rolex 24 at Daytona, a twice-round-the-clock endurance race featuring champions from series all over the world.

The event is packed with Indianapolis 500 winners, Le Mans winners and some of the most skilled drivers from global series. Busch is on hand to see how.

His long-time partnership with Toyota got him the gig to drive a Lexus for the AIM Vasser Sullivan team, and Busch is the only driver with a Toyota in the Rolex 24 this weekend.

He was just 16 when he first came into NASCAR in 2001, right as the series was passing a rule that delineated him until his 18th birthday. He was brash even then — it’s some chip he and older brother Kurt have just always seemed to have, though he was more compared with Kurt, the 2004 champion.

Kyle Busch has always done his best to speak the truth as he sees it, one sarcastic eye roll, thumbs-up or one-word answer at a time.

His opinions have not always been popular with NASCAR and it makes no difference whether he was right. The series “Car of Tomorrow” was terrible, he was just the beneficiary of the way NASCAR and it makes no difference whether he was right. The series “Car of Tomorrow” was terrible, he was just the beneficiary of the way NASCAR and its fans found him arrogant, entitled or whiny often blamed for fans hating the car. Many used a portion of his championship speech to address their struggles.

“I’m right here with you knowing how hard it’s been to go through multiple, yes multiple, failed attempts of IVF this year, to walk around and try to face people week to week, always knowing in the back of your mind how helpless I feel in life knowing how much I wanted to answer your prayers in giving you the gift of our baby girl,” Busch told her.

Busch is typically able to separate his personal and professional lives, but when things aren’t going well in either area, his temper can be short and his sarcasm biting.

“I think about his whole life. He’s got Sam and Brexton, but other than that, it’s racing,” said Joe Gibbs. “And when something goes bad in racing for him, think about how important that is, and it upsets him. Normally, the next day he’s a lot better.”

Busch has a legion of fan support from “Rowdy Nation,” the group he bow to with the checkered flag after every victory. Busch appreciates their backing beyond words, especially when he gets exhausted by the politics of a new NASCAR rule package and the grid of the 38-race schedule. Busch has other things to worry about, too: He owns the best truck team in the sport, and this year he will launch “Rowdy Energy,” an energy drink Busch says he helped develop.

“Mine’s going to be better, better for you and better tasting,” Busch insisted.

Busch has not been this outwardly happy in ages. Perhaps it comes with being the champion again, and the absolute belief that he can be the best NASCAR has ever seen.

The Daytona 500 is right around the corner, and a poor showing there could just as quickly send Busch scowling through the garage. He is always just one win away from infamy.

The only child, son Brexton, was conceived through IVF treatments and their quest to give him a sister suffered a heart-breaking setback when Samantha miscarried the day of the 2018 awards ceremony in Las Vegas. The couple tried unsuccessfully another six months and then used a portion of his championship speech to address their struggles.

“I’m right here with you knowing how hard it’s been to go through multiple, yes multiple, failed attempts of IVF this year, to walk around and try to face people week to week, always knowing in the back of your mind how helpless I feel in life knowing how much I wanted to answer your prayers in giving you the gift of our baby girl,” Busch told her.

Busch is typically able to separate his personal and professional lives, but when things aren’t going well in either area, his temper can be short and his sarcasm biting.

“I think about his whole life. He’s got Sam and Brexton, but other than that, it’s racing,” said Joe Gibbs. “And when something goes bad in racing for him, think about how important that is, and it upsets him. Normally, the next day he’s a lot better.”

Busch has a legion of fan support from “Rowdy Nation,” the group he bow to with the checkered flag after every victory. Busch appreciates their backing beyond words, especially when he gets exhausted by the politics of a new NASCAR rule package and the grid of the 38-race schedule. Busch has other things to worry about, too: He owns the best truck team in the sport, and this year he will launch “Rowdy Energy,” an energy drink Busch says he helped develop.

“Mine’s going to be better, better for you and better tasting,” Busch insisted.

Busch has not been this outwardly happy in ages. Perhaps it comes with being the champion again, and the absolute belief that he can be the best NASCAR has ever seen.

The Daytona 500 is right around the corner, and a poor showing there could just as quickly send Busch scowling through the garage. He is always just one win away from feeling invincible.

The dominating way he wins, his brash celebrations, his disregard for those who boo him and all those wins have made Busch something of a villain, and that doesn’t always put him in the best of moods. Ties in a bad day at the track, plus idle time each weekend because NASCAR assessed a ring that showcases their six Super Bowl victories.

Although Busch ran into the lapped car of Garrett Smithley at Las Vegas, he was targeting Ware, who wasn’t in that playoff race. The entire flap led to a heated discussion about on-track etiquette, talent discrepancies and drivers who purchase their seats in the big leagues. Ware was scheduled to compete in the Rolex 24 this weekend but his team pulled out late Monday.

In the Nov. 17 season finale, Busch beat Gibbs teammates Hamlin and Martin Truex Jr., as well as Kevin Harvick, to join Johnson as the only active drivers with multiple titles. Of course, Johnson is tied with Hall of Famers Petty and Earnhardt for the record, but Johnson is retiring at the end of the year. Busch turns just 35 and has twice proven he can rise through adversity to finish the job and doesn’t appear to be going anywhere anytime soon.

He won his 2015 championship in a season where he missed 11 races because he broke both his legs in a crash the day before the Daytona 500. His 2019 season had its share of personal struggles as Busch and his wife, Samantha, have been very public in their battles with infertility.

Their only child, son Brexton, was conceived through IVF treatments and their quest to give him a sister suffered a heart-breaking setback when Samantha miscarried the day of the 2018 awards ceremony in Las Vegas. The couple tried unsuccessfully another six months and then used a portion of his championship speech to address their struggles.

“I’m right here with you knowing how hard it’s been to go through multiple, yes multiple, failed attempts of IVF this year, to walk around and try to face people week to week, always knowing in the back of your mind how helpless I feel in life knowing how much I wanted to answer your prayers in giving you the gift of our baby girl,” Busch told her.

Busch is typically able to separate his personal and professional lives, but when things aren’t going well in either area, his temper can be short and his sarcasm biting.

“I think about his whole life. He’s got Sam and Brexton, but other than that, it’s racing,” said Joe Gibbs. “And when something goes bad in racing for him, think about how important that is, and it upsets him. Normally, the next day he’s a lot better.”

Busch has a legion of fan support from “Rowdy Nation,” the group he bow to with the checkered flag after every victory. Busch appreciates their backing beyond words, especially when he gets exhausted by the politics of a new NASCAR rule package and the grid of the 38-race schedule. Busch has other things to worry about, too: He owns the best truck team in the sport, and this year he will launch “Rowdy Energy,” an energy drink Busch says he helped develop.

“Mine’s going to be better, better for you and better tasting,” Busch insisted.

Busch has not been this outwardly happy in ages. Perhaps it comes with being the champion again, and the absolute belief that he can be the best NASCAR has ever seen.

The Daytona 500 is right around the corner, and a poor showing there could just as quickly send Busch scowling through the garage. He is always just one win away from feeling invincible.

Above: Kyle Busch drives a Lexus RC-F GT3 through the front stretch during testing at Daytona International Speedway on Jan. 26. Below: Although his NASCAR season doesn’t begin until the Daytona 500 on Feb. 16, Busch’s racing season begins this weekend with a cameo appearance in the Rolex 24 at Daytona, a twice-around-the-clock endurance race featuring various series champions.
Aussie outlasts Khachanov to set up much-anticipated showdown with No. 1 seed

By HOWARD FENDRICH
Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Nick Kyrgios put aside a bloody hand, a hamstring issue and a left hand that he joked was `like a villain` so that in my opinion is not good, I don't

to the other day in Melbourne, mimic-

“For this is just epic, man,” Kyrgios said.

“Like, I don't even know what's going on.”

Kyrgios initially was a point from winning

at 6-5 in the third-set tiebreaker, then

again an hour later at 8-7 in the fourth-set

tiebreaker, but he needed yet another hour

to pull out the victory when Khachanov

pushed a backhand wide.

“J was losing it mentally, a little bit,”

Kyrgios said. “I thought I was going to lose, honestly.”

Along the way, he hit a dive-and-roll

backhand, scraped his knuckles and, after

wiping the blood, was warned for a time

violation. That set off Kyrgios, who

explained why play was delayed and said to

the chair umpire, “Are you stupid? Well, take

it away.”

There are sure to be more fireworks

Monday during the eighth edition of Nadal

versus Kyrgios. Even so, Kyrgios tried to
downplay the animosity Saturday, saying:

“Whatever happens between us, he's an

amazing player. Arguably, he's the greatest

of all-time.”

So far, Nadal holds a 4-3 head-to-head

record, with Kyrgios holding the edge in

three of their four meetings.

Nadal was not thrilled that Kyrgios hit a

ball right at him in that match. Kyrgios took

a different sort of shot at Nadal from

afar the other day in Melbourne, mimick-
ing the 33-year-old Spaniard's series of

mannerisms before he hits a serve.

“It's clear of course, that when he does

stuff that in my opinion is not good, I don't

like it. When he plays good tennis and he

shows passion for this game, he is a pos-
tive player for our tour,” Nadal said.

Here's what Nadal loved Saturday:
The way he stepped things up during a 6-1,

6-2-4 victory over 27th-seeded Pablo Car-

reno Busta that required fewer than 100

minutes.

“I needed to improve,” Nadal said, “and I

improved.”

He finished with a total of merely seven

unforced errors among the match's 125

total points — and six times as many win-

ners at 42.

“My best match of the tournament so

far, without a doubt,” Nadal said. “Big dif-
fERENCE BETWEEN TODAY AND THE PREVIOUS

days.”

And to think: Nadal did this after stay-
ing up late enough to watch on TV as the

man he's chasing in the Grand Slam count,

Roger Federer, was pushed to a fifth-set

tiebreaker before getting through to the

fourth round at nearly 1 a.m.

That was part of a chaotic Day 5 — in-

cluding losses by Serena Williams and

reigning champion Naomi Osaka, who

was ousted by 15-year-old sensation Coco

Above: Russia's Nick Kyrgios lies down on the court after defeating Russia's Karen Khachanov 6-2, 7-6 (5), 6-7 (6), 6-

7 (7), 7-6 (8) in their third-round singles match at the Australian Open. Left: Russia's Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova makes a

forlorn return. Right: No. 2 Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic on Saturday in Melbourne, Australia.

Gauf — and the trend continued on Day 6 on the women's side. No. 5 Elina Svitolina and No. 6 Belinda Bencic all lost in

straight sets, meaning none of the top 13 seeds already are gone.

Pliskova, the 2016 U.S. Open runner-up, lost 7-6 (4), 7-6 (3) to 30th-seeded Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova. Svitolina, a semi-fi-
nalist at the past two majors, was beaten 6-

6-2 by two-time Slam champ Garbine

Muguruza. Bencic, a semifinalist at Flush-
ing Meadows last September, offered even

less pushback while being defeated 6-0,

6-4 in 49 minutes by 28th-seeded Anet

Kontaveit.

Kontaveit now meets 18-year-old Iga

Swiatek, who is ranked 57th and eliminat-

ed No. 19 seed Donna Vekic 7-5, 6-3.

“At this level, everything can happen,”

two-time major champion Simona Halep

said about all of the surprises, “so that's

why I'm a little bit stressed.”

Halep, who is seeded fourth, closed

out by beating Yulia Putintseva 6-1, 6-

4, and next plays No. 16 Elise Mertens, who

ended the Grand Slam return of 20-year-

old American CiCi Bellis 6-1, 6-7 (5), 6-0.

Saturday At Melbourne Park
Melbourne, Australia
Purse: AUD71,000,000

Men's Singles

Novak Djokovic, Serbia, 6-4, 6-4, 6-7 (5), 3-

6, 6-4.

Fernando Verdasco, Spain, 6-2, 6-2, 6-4.

John Isner (19), United States, 6-4, 4-

1, 6-4.

Jan-Lennard Struff, Germany, def.

Michael Berrer, Germany, 6-2, 6-4,

6-4.

Stan Wawrinka (15), Switzerland, def.

Pablo Carreno-Busta, Spain, 6-2, 6-4,

6-3.

Dominic Thiem (5), Austria, def.

Taylor Fritz (29), United States, 6-2, 6-

4, 6-7 (5), 6-3.

Daniil Medvedev (4), Russia, def.

Alexandr Bublik, Kazakhstan, def.

Ji Sung Nam and Min-Kyu Song, South

Korea, 6-7 (3), 6-4, 7-6 (3).

Cristian Garin, Chile, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3.

Gaëtan Monfils (10), France, def.

Ernests Gulbis, Latvia, 7-6 (2), 6-4, 6-3.

Rafael Nadal (1), Spain, def. Pablo Car-

reno Busta, Spain, 6-2, 6-7 (7), 6-

7 (6), 6-7 (6), 6-7 (7), 7-6 (8).
Long lines at Pro Bowl for Jackson’s autograph

BY MARK LONG
Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Baltimore cornerback Marlon Humphrey was signing autographs following Pro Bowl practice Thursday and wrapping up an interview when his sister jumped in with a desperate request.

“You have to help Mom,” she said.

“What’s up?” he asked.

“She wants a picture on the field with Lamar,” the sister answered.

That’d be quarterback and Ravens teammate Lamar Jackson, the league’s MVP front-runner and a special athlete on the field, a great person off the field, humble, hard worker, leadership. Everything you need in a franchise quarterback, he has it. I’m glad to be with him.”

Jackson found fans he never expected at the Pro Bowl. Drew Brees’ oldest son, Baylen, fell in love with Jackson this season, so the New Orleans quarterback arranged for them to meet. Baylen wore a Ravens shirt while getting Jackson to sign a Ravens helmet.

Jackson responded by playing catch with him in the AFC locker room.

“It was awesome,” Drew Brees said. “These are their heroes, these are the guys they look up to. You want to see your kids draw inspiration from things like this, moments like this. You never know when something might happen that will be a lightbulb moment for them.”

Try to put them in those positions to gain great experience and maybe have one of those moments. Maybe catching a ball from Lamar, you know, laying out for it in the AFC locker room or something was one of those moments.”

Jackson was admittedly starstruck while meeting the NFL’s all-time leading passer.

“I was stumbling over my words and I didn’t even know what to say,” Jackson said.

That’s kind of how people reacted to watching Jackson play this season and a big reason he’s drawing more attention at the Pro Bowl than Brees and Seattle quarterback Russell Wilson. Humphrey has proof. He ended up pulling Jackson out of a scrum to get his mom that pic with the QB.

Brady added.

Until he was farcically benched by then-coach Ben McDaniels for a late-season game in 2017, Manning had a string of 210 consecutive regular-season starts. The guy was indestructible at a position where nearly all of his peers (including Peyton) had significant injuries.

“Starting 200-plus consecutive games, answering the bell for his teammates, that’s what toughness is,” Peyton wrote Friday. “So as his brother I have such admiration and love for him. But as a quarterback, I have incredible respect for his toughness, his accountability, his leadership skills.”

Maybe that’s what should be appreciated most. Even when he was cast aside — only if for a week — by McDaniels, then was replaced this season by first-round draft pick Daniel Jones, Manning never was disruptive. He was supportive, which also is a sign of strong leadership from a veteran athlete.

“For the last 16 years, Eli has meant so much to all of us here at the Giants and also to our fans,” Giants co-owner John Mara said. “We all know about the two Super Bowl MVP’s and all of the great performances on the field. But just as important was the way he conducted himself on and off the field as the consummate professional, always with dignity, always with class.”

Again, tons of credit to the kid whose older brother quarterback way back when used to torture him if Eli didn’t know the name of every coach and quarterback on every SEC team.

Maybe Peyton will ask Eli to recite the names of every QB in the Hall of Fame someday. Maybe both Mannings will have their busts there, too.
T he debate whether Eli Manning is a Hall of Fame quarterback already has begun and will last for the next half-decade.

So why not look back at his achievements without wondering if he is bound for the Canton shrine as his brother Peyton will be next year?

The youngest of three sons of a college football superstar, Archie Manning, Eli's athletic roots were established long before he gripped a football. Older brothers Cooper and Peyton set a standard almost impossible for anyone to replicate, yet Eli tried.

Give him tons of credit just for that. Cooper became a high school star in New Orleans as a receiver and wound up at the University of Mississippi, where Archie built his legend. Cooper was forced to prematurely retire from football with spinal stenosis before he ever caught a pass for Ole Miss.

Peyton dominated Louisiana prep football, then opted to attend Tennessee rather than attempt to lengthen the family legacy at Mississippi. When Eli, five years younger, followed Peyton's footsteps in high school, he had to recognize it could be a thankless path. Yet he ran down it.

And then he chose to play quarterback at Ole Miss, which hadn't experienced much to brag about since his father was there.

Again, tons of credit.

“You don’t have to talk about how tough you are. You just show people how tough you are, and he did that.”

Peyton Manning
Retired QB on brother Eli

“Peyton dominated Louisiana prep football, then opted to attend Tennessee rather than attempt to lengthen the family legacy at Mississippi. When Eli, five years younger, followed Peyton's footsteps in high school, he had to recognize it could be a thankless path. Yet he ran down it. And then he chose to play quarterback at Ole Miss, which hadn’t experienced much to brag about since his father was there. Again, tons of credit.

“You don’t have to talk about how tough you are. You just show people how tough you are, and he did that.”

Peyton said in a social media post Friday after Eli officially announced his retirement following a 16-year career with the Giants that included two Super Bowl wins.

He did it in college, helping make Rebels football relevant again. Then he emulated,