‘We keep their memories alive’
American, French citizens mark Memorial Day with ceremony at Lorraine Cemetery

Trump’s second state visit to Japan marked by sumo, symbolism

By Seth Robson
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — There will be many symbolic moments during President Donald Trump’s second state visit to Japan, which kicked off with the arrival of Air Force One at a Tokyo airport Saturday evening and is expected to run through Tuesday.

The Japanese people already watched the American president and their prime minister, Shinzo Abe, attend the final day of a 15-day sumo tournament on Sunday. Trump presented the grand champion with an enormous, eagle-topped trophy that he called “the United States President’s Cup.” Jiji Press reported that it was more than 4½ feet tall and weighed about 66 pounds.

Donald Trump likes pageantry. He also likes military hardware. And [the Kaga] is a pretty impressive flattop.”

Michael Green
Japan expert with the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington

Trump, on Monday, is slated to become the first world leader to meet with new Japanese Emperor Naruhito since his enthronement on May 1 following the abdication of his father, Akihito, 85.

On Tuesday, Trump and Abe are expected to tour one of Japan’s helicopter destroyers — the JS Kaga — near Yokosuka Naval Base, home of the U.S. Navy’s 7th Fleet. Japan’s purchases of U.S. military equipment have played a major role in offsetting the massive amount of Japanese goods imported by Americans. In 2018, the U.S. trade deficit with Japan was $67.6 billion, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

As they stand on the deck of the Kaga — a ship that potentially could be turned into an aircraft carrier capable of supporting F-35B short takeoff and vertical

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By Michael Abrams
Stars and Stripes

ST. AVOLD, France — American and French citizens marked Memorial Day and saluted the 10,489 people buried at Lorraine American Cemetery, the largest World War II cemetery in Europe.

The ceremony, hosted by the American Battle Monuments Commission, drew about 1,500 people.

Army and Air Force units from Germany participated in an event that featured speeches, a wreath-laying, a flyover by a C-130 aircraft, the firing of volleys and a rendition of taps.

Among the units participating were soldiers from Vilseck, Germany’s 2nd Cavalry Regiment, Spangdahlem’s 52nd Fighter Wing, Ramstein’s 37th Airlift Squadron, the U.S. Army Europe Band’s brass quintet and Stuttgart High School’s JROTC chapter.

During his speech, Maj. Gen. Andrew Rohling, the deputy USAREUR commander, said: “We cannot measure or repay their sacrifice but we can honor it. By retelling their stories, we keep their memories alive.”

Sacrifice and duty and the friendship between the U.S. and France were common threads in all the speeches.

Kara McDonald, the U.S. consul general, and Lilian Pfluke, of the American Overseas Memorial Day Association, also spoke, as did local dignitaries.

“Sacrifice is timeless,” Rohling said. “These timeless heroes gave their lives for freedom, for peace, for democracy and for human dignity,” Rohling said.

Sgt. 1st Class Donavon Pierre, a member of the 2nd Cavalry Regiment honor guard, said, “It was an honor to take part in the ceremony. We want to be sure we do it correctly, to honor the fallen.”

Walking among the rows of white crosses and Stars of David — each decorated with French and American flags — Tom Favia, a retired Army sergeant first class, paused to touch some of them. “I live across the border in Germany. I try to come out here for the ceremony every year,” he said.

Photo by Michael Abrams
Stars and Stripes

Above: Airmen from Ramstein Air Base, Germany, prepare to present wreaths during the Memorial Day Ceremony at Lorraine American Cemetery in St. Avold, France, on Sunday. Below: U.S. Army Europe’s brass quintet performs.

Below: Retired Sgt. 1st Class Tom Favia touches a cross following the ceremony.

Photos by Michael Abrams/Stars and Stripes

‘Timeless heroes’ honored at US cemetery in France

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS

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PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS

Retired Sgt. 1st Class Tom Favia touches a cross following the ceremony.
Plans to replace Iwo Jima as a US practice site stall

BY JAMES BOLINGER  
Stars and Stripes

IWO JIMA, Japan — Six Navy F/A-18 Super Hornets soared in a tight loop 600 feet high on May 17 over Iwo Jima, scene of one of the bloodiest conflicts of World War II.

Their pilots were practicing the ability to use the island, multimillion-dollar, 32,000-pound fighters onto an aircraft carrier flight deck — an area close to the size of a baseball field.

One by one, they took turns aiming for a space as wide as the distance between home plate and first base. On a carrier, the jets, traveling at speeds as fast as 125 mph, must come to a complete stop in the distance between home plate and the centerfield wall.

The perilous task of landing on a carrier deck, sometimes in pitching seas, sometimes at night, with no other reference than the bobbing lights of the ship itself, takes constant, repetitive practice.

At Iwo Jima, during “field carrier landing practice,” most senior pilots will fly at least six sorties — three in the daytime and three at night — and during each sortie complete seven to eight touch-and-goes.

Junior pilots are expected to complete 12 or more touch-and-goes per sortie, said Capt. Matt Burke, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, based at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni.

“Flying as an instructor, I would teach my pilots to get so comfortable it was like driving a car,” he said.

“When you’re thinking you just kind of know where your foot needs to go to get to a certain speed or slow down and hit the brake, that’s the reaction that has to happen for a pilot.”

Since 1989, U.S. naval aviators have used the airport at Iwo Jima — known in Japan since 2007 as Iwo To — to simulate carrier-deck landings.

“Before Iwo Jima, I was here in February-March 1945,” said Capt. James Clemons, Japan’s defense minister’s senior pilot. “I landed at night when the fog was rolling in, and one of my friends was injured in the accident, which occurred about 10:15 a.m., according to the navy’s public affairs office. The case will be referred to Okinawa prosecutors Monday, the spokesman said. Alcohol is not believed to have been a factor.

The 10-square-mile Iwo Jima, just 60 miles off the eastern coast of Japan, is home to a U.S. Navy base as well as South Korea’s Naval Academy, and it is the country’s largest navy base.

Although Mount Suribachi, the volcano whose height dominates the island, is extinct, the island is riddled with steam vents that can damage the runway.

“The runway, the last time we did [field carrier-landing practice], was in very poor condition,” Clemons said. “It created a lot of excessive wear on our landing gear and parts associated with that.”

Weather around the island can change quickly. Inclement weather would force the air wing to train at an alternate location, such as Misawa Air Base, Naval Air Facility Atsugi or MCAS Iwakuni. Training has been canceled twice in the past 10 years, most recently in 2017 because of a typhoon.

Some of the senior pilots share stories about taking arrested landings at opposite ends of the 8,700-foot runway, essentially landing nose to nose because of rapidly changing weather, he said.

“At one point, I was headed north on Route 58 and I was turned around to face south,” Clemons said. “It was really dangerous, and it created a lot of stress for the pilots.”

The runway is 8,900 feet long and about the size of a baseball field.

The system of colored lights used by pilots to ensure they are landing in the right spot aboard an aircraft carrier.

US civilian contractor arrested after deadly crash

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND ICHIHASHI
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — A civilian contractor from Kadena Air Base was arrested Sunday morning after a deadly collision with a motorcyclist on the southeastern island prefecture.

Nicholas Christenson, 38, was charged with negligent driving resulting in death or injury after colliding with a motorcycle driven by Isao Toriumi, 39, of Urasoe, at approximately 8 a.m., according to an Okinawa police spokesman who was not available on a customary condition of anonymity.

Christenson was heading south on Route 58 when he took a right-hand turn toward the seawall at the Sunabe intersection near Kadena’s Gate 1, the spokesman said. He continued to cut across the lane of Toriumi, who was heading north on Route 58.

Toriumi was thrown into a concrete guardrail parking lot, where he struck a parked taxi, the spokesman said.

The case will be referred to Okinawa prosecutors Monday, the spokesman said. Alcohol is not believed to have been a factor.

S. Korean sailor dies in docking accident at port

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — A South Korean sailor was killed Friday when a rope snapped during the docking of a destroyer returning from a mission near Somalia, the navy said.

The rope broke as it was being tightened to secure the ship to the dock in the southeastern port of Chinhae, according to the South Korean navy. It is investigating the cause but said foul play is not suspected.

The 4,400-ton ROKS Choi Young was returning home after a six-month anti-piracy mission in the Gulf of Aden.

A petty officer second class died, and four other sailors were injured in the accident, which occurred about 10:15 a.m. according to the navy’s public affairs office.

One of the injured sailors already has returned to his unit, while the three others remained hospitalized with injuries that were not life-threatening, an official said.

Chinhae, also spelled Jinhae, is home to a U.S. Navy base as well as South Korea’s Naval Academy, and it is the country’s largest navy base.
Fallen US soldiers remembered in Germany

By Martin Egnash Stars and Stripes

VILSECK, Germany — As service members around the world observe Memorial Day weekend, a military police brigade made it personal by remembering their brigade’s soldiers who died in combat.

The 18th Military Police Brigade held a ceremony on Thursday to rededicate a newly created memorial grove at Rose Barracks.

During the ceremony, Army and local leaders gathered to listen to stories of their fallen soldiers.

The brigade lost 65 troops in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

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The 24th annual luminaria was held at Fredericksburg National Cemetery in Fredericksburg, Va., on Saturday.

It’s an honor to come out here and support everyone who’s fallen,” said Matt Rabun. Their families may not have known where they were buried or known anything about what happened to them,” Moore said of the fallen soldiers. “So I do the best that I can to honor their memory and their service.”

Before a thunderstorm put an end to the ceremony, volunteers from the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and groups like the local chapter of Team Red, White and Blue (of which Moore is a member) battled the wind to light and relight candles that were placed in protective bags. The storm caused the National Park Service to evacuate the hilltop site, which had been open to the public for only a few minutes.

Many families had participated in the candle lighting, among them the Rabuns. Navy Chief Petty Officer Matt Rabun, of Naval Station Norfolk, was joined by his wife, Lindsey, and children Elijah, Eleonore and Evelyn.

“It’s an honor to come out here and support everyone who’s fallen,” said Matt Rabun. The Fredericksburg cemetery was created as a final resting place for soldiers who died in the battles of Fredericksburg, Chancellorville, Wilderness and Spotsylvania Court House and were often buried in unmarked graves near the battlefields. A site was selected on Marye’s Heights, and all the reburials were done by 1869. Another 300 veterans were buried there through 1945.

Luminaria honors Civil War casualties at Fredericksburg National Cemetery

By Joe Gromelski Stars and Stripes

FREDERICKSBURG, Va. — Of the more than 15,000 Union soldiers who were buried at Fredericksburg National Cemetery after the Civil War, only 2,373 were identified.

That’s one of the reasons why Donna Moore came to the cemetery Saturday evening for the 24th annual luminaria, during which two candles are lit at each grave.

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Sumo: North Korea is among topics Trump, Abe are likely to discuss during visit

From Front Page

landing stealth fighters — it’s possible the Japanese and American leaders could cut even more deals.

Japan — already looking to increase its purchase of F-35 fighter aircrafts — is deliberating its next big-ticket defense procurement, which will be replacing for its aging fleet of F-2 fighters.

It’s an issue that Trump and Abe might discuss, according to Michael Green, a Japan expert with the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

“Donald Trump likes pageant-like ceremonies,” said a Japan expert from the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

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Sumo: North Korea is among topics Trump, Abe are likely to discuss during visit

If Japan modifies its four helicopter carriers to launch F-35Bs it will have its first fleet of aircraft carriers since World War II, Green said during a teleconference with reporters Wednesday.

“The Japanese have not decided officially yet whether they’ll procure the F-35B, but there’s an awful lot of interest,” he said.

“I’m sure Donald Trump would like to sell them.”

Abe has cultivated, perhaps, the closest relationship with Trump of any world leader. The arrival and departure of US President Donald Trump for lunch, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

A Pew Research Center poll published in November showed fewer than a third of Japanese had confidence in Trump but that about two-thirds trusted the United States, on par with levels during the Obama administration.

“The Japanese public recognizes how critical the U.S.-Japan alliance is and, somewhat in contrast to our Western European allies or Canada, Japan lives right next door to China and North Korea, has very little room for friction with the United States,” Green said.

Trump and Abe will likely discuss the importance of coordinating North Korea strategy, “essentially the balance between pressuring the Kim Jong Un regime and exploring opportunities for diplomacy,” Nicholas Szecsenyi, another Japan expert from the center, added.

“I think the president will express support for Prime Minister Abe’s interest in exploring bilateral diplomacy with Kim Jong Un,” Szecsenyi said.

Hours before Trump’s arrival Saturday at Haneda Interna-

tional Airport, National Security Adviser John Bolton told reporters at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo that North Korea will be among the first issues that Trump and Abe discuss.

Bolton also called short-range missile tests by the North a violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions that prohibit the communist nation from launching ballistic missiles.

However, Trump later downplayed those recent tests in a tweet posted after he arrived in Tokyo.

“North Korea fired off some small weapons, which disturbed some of my people, and others, but not me,” the president wrote.
Inaugural exercise kicks off in Pacific

By Caitlin Doornbos
Stars and Stripes

aboARD THE USS AntietAM — Ships from four partner nations maneuvered around each other in waters near Guam on Friday morning, working together on a common goal: Find the submarine.

Helicopters flew ahead of the ships, which kept their distance from the imagined submarine, just as they would in actual combat, said Capt. George Kessler, commander of the guided-missile cruiser USS Antietam. Once they found the sub, the helicopters then “prosecuted” — or fired at — the hypothetical target.

The submarine hunt was one portion of the inaugural, six-day Pacific Vanguard exercise involving vessels from the United States, Japan, South Korea and Australia.

Although armed forces from the four nations have previously exercised together in some combination, the Navy described Pacific Vanguard as a “first of its kind event” in a statement issued Wednesday.

“It’s unique in that it’s an exercise focused on those four allies,” Kessler said. “These are our allies that we operate with on a consistent basis.”

Organizers hope to hold Pacific Vanguard twice a year, he said.

The exercise, which is slated to conclude Tuesday, involves 3,000 sailors and 10 ships in the waters off Guam.

The drills include live-fire exercises, defensive counter air operations, anti-submarine warfare and replenishment at sea, according to the Navy statement.

Conducting two exercises per year “is indicative to the strength of the partnership and the desire that we have to work together and continue to push forward to ensure that we can operate seamlessly,” Kessler said.

The beauty of the Northern Marianas served as a backdrop to the exercise as rainbows formed in Guam’s sunny skies above the four nations.

The U.S. sent to the exercise, in addition to the Antietam, the 7th Fleet flagship USS Blue Ridge, the destroyer USS Curtis Wilbur, the replenishment oiler USNS Rappahannock and the supply ship USNS Richard E. Byrd, according to the Navy statement. Aircraft from Electronic Attack Squadron 132 and Patrol Squadron 5 also took part.

Australia sent two frigates, the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force sent two destroyers and a main focus, Kessler said.

The countries do not use translators to communicate but instead use English, a second language to the Koreans and Japanese.

“We are working together with the ability to communicate across four different countries and pass the information across each unit that’s necessary for us to operate at sea,” Kessler said.

U.S. Navy Capt. Hans Sholley, chief of staff for Joint Region Marianas, said it’s beneficial to hold Pacific Vanguard in Guam, which “has long been a strategic location in the Western Pacific.”

“Anytime you have sailors from different navies operating together, sharing tactics, techniques and procedures ... ensures we are prepared for any challenges that may arise in the region,” he said.
Iraq offers to mediate between Iran, US

BY QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA AND NASSER KARIMI
Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq offered Sunday to mediate in the crisis between its two key allies, the United States and Iran, amid escalating Middle East tensions and as Tehran’s nuclear deal with world powers steadily unravels.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad al-Hakim made the offer during a joint news conference in Baghdad with visiting Iranian counterpart Mohammad Javad Zarif.

“We are trying to help and to be mediators,” said al-Hakim, adding that Baghdad “will work to reach a satisfactory solution” while stressing that Iraq stands against unilateral steps taken by Washington.

In recent weeks, tensions between Washington and Tehran soared over America deploying an aircraft carrier and B-52 bombers to the Persian Gulf and as Tehran’s nuclear deal with world powers steadily unravels.

Zarif, who has been on a whirlwind diplomatic offensive to preserve the rest of the accord, insisted that Iran “did not violate the nuclear deal” and urged European nations to exert efforts to preserve the deal following the U.S. pullout.

Washington subsequently reimposed sanctions on Iran, sending its economy into freefall.

Trump has argued that the deal failed to sufficiently curb Iran’s ability to develop nuclear weapons or halt its support for militias throughout the Middle East that the U.S. says destabilize the region, as well as to address the issue of Tehran’s missiles, which can reach both U.S. regional bases and Israel.

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Speaking about the rising tensions with the U.S., Zarif said Iran will be able to “face the war, whether it is economic or military through steadfastness and its forces.” He also called for a nonaggression agreement between Iran and Arab countries in the Gulf.

The Shiite-majority Iraq has been trying to maintain a fine line as allies Tehran and Washington descended into verbal vitriol. The country also lies on the fault line between Shiite Iran and the mostly Sunni Arab world, led by powerhouse Saudi Arabia, and has long been a battlefield in which the Saudi-Iran rivalry for regional supremacy played out.

The mediation offer by al-Hakim, Iraq’s foreign minister, echoed one made Saturday by Mohamad al-Halbousi, the Iraqi parliament speaker. Al-Hakim and al-Halbousi expressed concern for Iran’s spiraling economy.

Iranians make up the bulk of millions of Shiites from around the world who come to Iraq every year to visit its many Shiite shrines and holy places, and their purchasing power has slumped after Trump reimposed the sanctions.

“The sanctions against sisterly Iran are ineffective and we stand by its side,” al-Hakim said.

3 French ISIS members sentenced to death by Iraq

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A Baghdad court Sunday sentenced to death three French citizens for being members of Islamic State, an Iraqi judicial official said. The verdict raised fresh questions about the legal treatment of thousands of foreign nationals formerly with the extremist group.

The official said the three were among 12 French citizens whom the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces handed over to Iraq in January.

They can appeal the sentences within a month, according to the official.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn’t authorized to speak to the media.

Iraqi President Barham Saleh had said during a February visit to Paris that the 12 will be processed in accordance with Iraqi laws.

The SDF has handed over to Iraq hundreds of suspected ISIS members in recent months.

The trials of the French nationals in Baghdad raise the difficult question of whether foreign ISIS suspects should be tried and punished in the country of their alleged crimes, even when there are serious doubts about the impartiality of the courts in Iraq and Syria.

The thousands of men and women who came from around the world to join the self-styled Islamic caliphate have been left in limbo following the group’s territorial defeat earlier this year in Syria. Many of their home countries hesitate to take back citizens they see as having gone willingly to join the extremist group.

The three men are the first French ISIS members sentenced to death by Iraq. It wasn’t immediately clear how France, which abolished the death penalty nearly four decades ago, will react to the sentence.

Iraqi prosecutors say the 12 French nationals are accused of belonging to ISIS, were parties or accomplices to its crimes and threatened the national security of Iraq. Simply belonging to the extremist group is punishable by life in prison or execution under Iraq’s counterterrorism laws.

A French diplomatic official, speaking on condition of anonymity to speak freely about policy, said France recognizes the rights of Iraq to try people for crimes committed in Iraq.

But human rights groups and advocates of the men in France say it is not certain that the men committed crimes in Iraq or if they were even ever in the country.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad al-Hakim, right, shown with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif in Baghdad on Sunday, says Iraq is willing to mediate in the crisis between the U.S. and Iran.

UN: Afghan captives abused by the Taliban

BY RAHIM FAIEZ
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghan captives held by the Taliban have been subjected to abuse, ill treatment and actions that may amount to torture, the U.S. said Sunday in a statement that comes as the U.S. is trying to find a negotiated solution to the country’s protracted war.

The U.N. Assistance Mission in Afghanistan said it interviewed 13 detainees from a group of 53 recently rescued from the Taliban, mainly members of Afghan forces but also civilians and government officials captured by the insurgents.

The group was freed on April 25 when Afghan troops raided a Taliban-run detention facility in the Khas Uruzgan district in southern Uruzgan province.

Most of the captives were held since 2018, with three since 2016, the UNAMA statement said, adding they were kept in poor conditions and subjected to forced labor.

It cites the detainees as saying that the Taliban killed some of their captives.

“I am gravely concerned about these serious allegations of ill treatment, torture and unlawful killing of civilians and security personnel, as well as the deplorable conditions of detention,” said Tadamichi Yamamoto, the head of UNAMA.

The detainees were shackled while in captivity and almost all said they were beaten. The Taliban told them it was punishment for supporting the government, working with the Americans or fighting the insurgents.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid condemned the U.N. statement as “untrue propaganda” and claimed it was “baseless.”

Mujahid criticized what he said was ill treatment of Taliban prisoners held in secret detention centers by the Afghan intelligence service, which he claimed was being ignored.

“The United Nations reminds the Taliban that international humanitarian law applicable to international and noninternational armed conflicts provides that all persons who do not take direct part in hostilities, or who have ceased to do so, must always be treated humanely,” said Richard Bennett, UNAMA’s chief for human rights.
**Wreckage near Japan could be MIA WWII plane**

By Chris Carola  
Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — Wreckage on the ocean floor near a Japanese island is being investigated by a family member of a pilot who died in a plane crash there in 1945.

Pinto, shown on American Indian Day last year in the Legislature in Santa Fe, N.M., has died at 94.

In the Legislature in Santa Fe, N.M., a scuba diver swims near the left wing wreckage of an F4U-4 Corsair fighter aircraft off Sonai, Iriomote Jima, Japan, shown in an aerial view below right, on March 24. The wreckage is believed to be from the fighter-bomber flown by 2nd Lt. John McGrath, below left, a U.S. Marine Corps pilot from New York who's still listed as missing in action.

Born in Lupton, Ariz., on the Navajo Nation to a family of shepherders, Pinto didn't start formal schooling until he was nearly a teenager.

“Words cannot express the sadness we feel for the loss of a great Dine warrior,” said Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, using the indigenous word for Navajo. “He dedicated his life to helping others.”

Pinto delved into politics to address the needs of impoverished indigenous populations. The Democrat won a state seat in 1976 as one of the state's first Native American senators.

An unassuming appearance and manner belied Pinto's political determination that carried him through 42 years in the Legislature. Laurie Canepa, the senior librarian for the Legislative Council Service, said that made him the longest-serving senator in state history.

In the Legislature, Pinto advocated for education reform and anti-poverty programs. Receiving a lifetime achievement award in 2016, Pinto recalled going hungry at times as a child while his parents juggled odd jobs and said the experience influenced his work on issues of homelessness as a lawmaker.

Every year, Pinto would sing on the Senate floor the “Potato Song” — a Navajo song about a potato, planted in the spring and visited in the summer until it is harvested.

Democratic New Mexico state Sen. John Pinto, shown on American Indian Day last year in the Legislature in Santa Fe, N.M., has died at 94.
Abortion bans may hand Dems political weapon

BY ALAN FRAM
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A flood of laws banning abortions in Republican-run states has handed Democrats a political weapon heading into next year’s elections, helping them paint the GOP as extreme and court centrist voters who could decide congressional races in swing states, members of both parties say.

The Alabama law outlawing virtually all abortions, even in cases of rape or incest, is the strictest so far. Besides animating Democrats, the law has prompted President Donald Trump, other Republican leaders and lawmakers seeking re-election next year to distance themselves from the measure.

Their reaction underscores that Republicans have risked overplay their hand with severe state laws that they hope will prod the Supreme Court, with its ascendant conservative majority, to strike down Roe v. Wade, the 1973 decision that legalized abortion. It also illustrates the way that those statutes are forcing the GOP to struggle over how to satisfy its core anti-abortion supporters without alienating the vast majority of voters averse to strictly curbing abortion.

The Alabama law is “a loser for Republican candidates in Colorado, without question, and in many other swing parts of the country because it’s extreme,” said David Flaherty, a Colorado-based Republican consultant who’s worked on congressional races around the country. “It’s only going to widen the gender gap.”

Brian Fitzpatrick, a Vanderbilt Law School professor and former aide to Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, said there are many “women, moderate women, who are going to be scared that this right that they thought they had for the last 40-some years is going to be shelved” and they will be motivated to vote.

GOP Sens. Joni Ernst, of Iowa, and Susan Collins, of Maine, both seeking re-election next year, said that the Alabama ban goes far too far by eliminating exceptions for pregnancies involving rape or incest. A similar law in Missouri, backed by the Gutterm Institute, which backs abortion rights, found about 1% of women said they had abortions because of rape or incest.

Democrats see such statutes as a way to weave a broader message about Republicans trying to embarrass the law, which allows exceptions when the mother’s health is endangered. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., called it an “existential threat to the human rights of women,” while former Vice President Joe Biden said GOP hopes of striking down Roe v. Wade are “pernicious and we have to stop it.”

Democratic presidential contenders are competing to lambast the Alabama law, which allows exceptions when the mother’s health is endangered. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., called it an “existential threat to the human rights of women,” while former Vice President Joe Biden said GOP hopes of striking down Roe v. Wade are “pernicious and we have to stop it.”

Campaign Facebook and Twitter accounts of Democrats seeking reelection next year, such as Sen. Doug Jones, of Alabama, and Jeanne Shaheen, of New Hampshire, are littered with posts attacking the new restrictions. The people of Alabama deserve to be on the “right side of history” — not the side of extremists,” Jones tweeted.

Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi and Ohio have enacted or nearing approval of measures barring abortion once there’s detectable fetal heartbeat, which can occur in the sixth week of pregnancy, before a woman may know she is pregnant. Missouri lawmakers approved an eight-week ban.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says that of the 638,000 abortions it tallied in 2015, almost two thirds were performed within the first eight weeks of pregnancy. About 1% were performed during or after the 21st week.

Spotlighting the perilous political territory Republicans are navigating, an April poll by the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation found a majority of registered voters favoring restrictions on abortion, with 57% of adults who described themselves as “pro-life” nonetheless said abortion should be legal if the pregnancy results from rape or incest.

The focus on the state measures has also stolen GOP momentum on abortion. Until now, congressional Republicans had spent much of this year focusing Democrats onto the defensive, grading them into blocking bills aimed at curbing the rare abortions performed late in pregnancies and misleadingly accusing them of supporting infanticide.

“Obviously, the attention has shifted,” said Sarah Chamberlain, president of the Republican Main Street Partnership, which represents dozens of moderate GOP lawmakers. She said while her group doesn’t think Democrats’ focus on the harsh laws has gained traction, “We are talking about that and how it’s going to play in our districts.”

Some Democrats say the Democratic drive will have minimal impact because the abortion issue drives relatively few voters from each party. Others say GOP candidates should accuse Democrats of extremism by opposing bills restricting abortions late in pregnancy and, if they wish, cite their support for exempting rape and incest victims.

Trump asks Citizenship and Immigration Services chief to quit

BY COLLEEN LONG
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump asked the head of Citizenship and Immigration Services to resign, leaving yet another vacancy of the Trump administration.

Cissna led the agency re-registered as an immigration czar, but it wasn’t clear what his role would be.

Lee Francis Cissna told staff on Friday that his last day would be June 1, according to a copy of the email obtained by The Associated Press.

Cissna leads the agency responsible for legal immigration, including benefits and visas. With his departure, there are more than a dozen vacancies of top leadership positions at the sprawling, 240,000-employee department.

Some are being temporarily filled, including secretary and inspector general. Cissna’s position, like others, requires Senate confirmation.

Cissna had been on the chopping block last month amid a White House-orchestrated bloodbath that led to the resignation of Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen, in part because aides felt he wasn’t moving quickly enough to tighten immigration rules and push through complicated regulation changes.

But his job was saved, temporarily, after high-ranking Republicans spoke out about his record — particularly Sen. Chuck Grassley, who worked with Cissna for years. And it appeared he was back to business.

He told the AP just two weeks ago that his agency was training dozens of U.S. border patrol agents to start screening immigrants arriving on the southwest border for asylum amid a surge in the number of families seeking the protection.

Asylum officers conduct initial interviews of immigrants arriving on the border to determine whether they have a credible fear of returning to their countries or should be sent back.

But Trump is dealing with a growing crisis as tens of thousands of Central American migrants cross the border each month, overwhelming the system, and he has been unable to deliver on his signature issue of reduced immigration and tighter border security.

Cissna told his staff in the email that he was grateful for their support but offered no information on what was ahead.

“During the past 20 months, every day, I have passionately worked to carry out USCIS’ mission to faithfully administer the nation’s lawful immigration system,” Cissna wrote to staff. “Cissna told his staff in the email that he was grateful for their support but offered no information on what was ahead.

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137-year-old rifle found in Nevada goes on display

Associated Press

BAKER, Nev. — A 137-year-old rifle found five years ago leaning against a juniper tree in Great Basin National Park in Nevada is now part of an exhibit dedicated to the “Forgotten Winchester” at the park visitor center near the Utah border.

The best-preserved rifle discovered five years ago in Nevada is from 1882, and was found leaning against a juniper tree in Great Basin National Park in Baker, Nev., for the “Forgotten Winchester,” an 1882 rifle that was discovered leaning against a tree in 2014.

The exhibit also highlights the Model 1873 — one of the most popular guns on the western frontier — played in the history of the West. “The exhibit is a showcase for visitors to discover the rifle’s mysterious history and become inspired to imagine, investigate and care about a piece of their American history,” said Nichole Andler, the park’s chief of interpretation.

The rifle on display has been exhibited at gun shows and at the Buffalo Bill center for a number of years. Officials found a bullet in the stock and removed it. The bullet is included in the new exhibit case.

“It has been a fun and inspiring project to work on with our park staff and our partners to complete this exhibit and give the Forgotten Winchester a permanent home,” Andler said.

The exhibit was designed and funded by the National Park Service, Great Basin National Park Foundation and Fund for People in Parks.

NATION

137-year-old rifle found in Nevada goes on display

California man killed by shark in Hawaii lost half of his leg

Associated Press

MAUI, Hawaii — Authorities say the man killed by a shark in Hawaii this past weekend was a 65-year-old resident of California.

Shark warning signs were posted Sunday in the Ka’anapali Beach Park area on Maui where the man died.

Witness Allison Keller told Hawaii News Now that the man appeared unconscious as rescuers brought him to shore Saturday. Keller said the victim was missing his left leg from the knee down and skin was torn from his wrist.

Hawaii’s Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement confirmed the man’s age but did not release his name. Officials didn’t say where in California he was from.

The last fatal shark attack in Hawaii was in 2015, when a snorkeler off Maui was killed.
Officials: At least 2 dead after likely tornado hits Okla.

BY TIM TALLEY
AND SUE OROCKI
Associated Press

EL RENO, Okla. — A likely tornado killed at least two people as it destroyed a motel, roared through a nearby mobile home park and caused significant damage in the Oklahoma City area, officials said Sunday.

El Reno Mayor Matt White said during a news conference that "there have been two fatalities at this point in time," adding that officials are currently working to notify relatives.

White said search and rescue efforts are continuing.

National Weather Service meteorologist Rick Smith, in Norman, Okla., told The Associated Press that the suspected twister hit El Reno on Saturday night as a powerful storm system rolled through the state. Crews were to arrive on the scene Sunday to determine the severity of the damage to the town located just west of Oklahoma City.

The American Budget Value Inn was destroyed by the storm. Images from the scene showed emergency crews sifting through rubble after part of the motel's second story collapsed into a pile of debris strewn about the first floor and parking lot.

Elsewhere, overturned cars and twisted metal could be seen briefly as intermittent lightning flashed across the sky and the wailing sirens of approaching emergency vehicles were heard in the distance.

Workers at the Skyview Estates mobile home park adjacent to the motel also were damaged, as was part of a nearby car dealership.

"We have absolutely experienced a traumatic event," White said during a news conference Sunday.

White said several people were transported to hospitals in Oklahoma City, but he did not give an exact number.

"We're doing a search and rescue right now. … We have all hands on deck," White said.

Saturday night's storm in El Reno came after a week of tornadoes, severe rain and flooding in the Southern Plains and Midwest, including a tornado that hit Jefferson City, Mo.

The region's most recent spate of bad weather and flooding has been blamed for at least nine deaths.

Tweety Garrison, 63, told the AP early Sunday that she was inside her mobile home — along with her husband, two young grandchildren and a family friend — when the storm hit. Garrison said that when she heard the storm coming, she immediately hit the ground. Moments later, she said, she heard the mobile home next door slam into hers before it flipped over and landed on her roof.

Garrison said the incident lasted five to 10 minutes. She said there was a tornado warning on her phone but the sirens did not go off until after tornado hit.

Garrison's son, Elton, 32, said he'd heard the wailing tornado sirens and had just lay down at home about a half-mile away when his phone rang.

He recognized his mother's number, but there was no voice on the other end when he answered. "I thought, 'That's weird,'" Elton Garrison said.

Then his mother called back, and delivered a chilling message: "We're trapped."

Elton said when he arrived at his parent's home, he found it blocked by debris and sitting with another trailer on top of it. He immediately began clearing a path to the home so he could eventually lift a portion of an outside wall just enough so that all five occupants could slip beneath it and escape.

"My parents were in there and two of my kids, one 9 and the other 12. … My main emotion was Lives can't."

In the next breath, Garrison added: "Items can be replaced. Lives can't."

Stan Lee’s former business manager charged with elder abuse

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A former business manager of Stan Lee was arrested Saturday on elder abuse charges involving the late comic book legend.

Keya Morgan was taken into custody in Arizona on an outstanding arrest warrant after being charged by Los Angeles County prosecutors earlier this month.

Morgan faces felony charges including theft, embezzlement, forgery or fraud against an elderly adult and false imprisonment of an elderly adult. A misdemeanor count also alleges elder abuse.

Authorities said Morgan sought to capitalize on the Marvel Comic mastermind's wealth and exert influence over Lee even though he had no authority to act on his behalf.

Police said Morgan pocketed more than $262,000 from autograph-signing sessions Lee did in May 2018.

Authorities say Morgan at one point also took Lee from his Hollywood Hills home to a Beverly Hills condominium, "where Morgan had more control over Lee."

Lee's daughter said in a request for a restraining order last year that Morgan was manipulating the mentally declining Lee, preventing him from seeing family and friends and trying to take control of his money and business affairs.

Attorney Alex Kessel has said Morgan has never abused or taken advantage of Lee.

Kessel said in an email on Saturday that he had been in contact with prosecutors to arrange for Morgan to surrender on Tuesday.

"It is unfortunate that the DA (district attorney) and police did not honor our commitment to surrender [this] week and arrested him," Kessel said in an email.

Lee died in November at the age of 95.

Morgan's bail has been set at $300,000. He will eventually be extradited to Los Angeles to face the charges.
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Discipline or treat?

By Pat Eaton-Robb
Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. — A glimpse of student athletes in peak physical condition vaping just moments after competing in a football game led Stamford High School Principal Raymond Manka to reconsider his approach to the epidemic.

His school traditionally has emphasized discipline for those caught with e-cigarettes. Punishments become increasingly severe with each offense, from in-school suspensions to out-of-school suspensions and, eventually, notification of law enforcement.

But Manka began thinking about it more as an addiction problem after seeing the two players from another school vaping near their bus.

“It broke my heart,” said Manka, whose school is now exploring how to offer cessation programs for students caught vaping or with vaping paraphernalia.

“We’ve got to figure out how we can help these kids wean away from bad habits that might hurt their body or their mind or otherwise create behaviors that can create habits that will be harmful for the remainder of their lives,” he said.

Schools elsewhere have been wresting with how to balance discipline with prevention and treatment in their response to the soaring numbers of vaping students.

Health and harm

Using e-cigarettes, often called vaping, has now overtaken smoking traditional cigarettes in popularity among students, says the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Last year, 1 in 5 U.S. high school students reported vaping the previous month, according to a CDC survey.

E-cigarettes produce an aerosol by heating a liquid that usually contains high levels of nicotine — the addictive drug in regular cigarettes and other tobacco products — along with many other harmful substances. Users inhale the aerosol into their lungs; when they exhale, bystanders often breathe it in too.

The research on the health effects of e-cigarettes, compared with those of regular cigarettes, is thin. Experts say that although using e-cigarettes appears less harmful over the long run than smoking regular cigarettes, that doesn’t mean they’re safe — particularly for youth, young adults, pregnant women or adults who do not currently use tobacco products.

“Studies have shown that e-cigarette use among young people is potentially associated with an increased risk of progressing of their lives,” he said.

A woman exhales while vaping from a Juul pen e-cigarette on April 16 in Vancouver, Wash.

Treatment, prevention

Nevertheless, some school districts have begun taking a more comprehensive approach by emphasizing treatment and prevention.

The Conejo Valley Unified School District in southern California recently shifted from suspending students for a first offense to sending them to a four-hour Saturday class on the marketing and health dangers of vaping. A second offense results in a one-or-two-day suspension coupled with a class on the marketing and health dangers of vaping. A second offense results in a one-or-two-day suspension coupled with a class on the marketing and health dangers of vaping. A second offense results in a one-or-two-day suspension coupled with a class on the marketing and health dangers of vaping.

Treatment programs for students caught vaping or using e-cigarettes can be intensive anti-vaping education programs that include parenting classes, counseling, support and medical intervention.

At the Mattawan Consolidated School District just outside of Kalamazoo, Mich., Principal Tim Eastman recently wrote to parents that students found congregating in bathrooms or parking lots will be taken to the office and searched.

“Anyone found with vaping equipment will face suspensions,” Eastman wrote.

“Although this may seem extreme, the health and safety of our students is too important to ignore.”

Eastman said the school is not currently providing those caught vaping with any additional education or medical intervention but is considering it.
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Hosted by Michelle Harven and Air Force veteran Desmon Farris.
Europeans casting final election ballots

By Mike Corder
Associated Press

BRUSSELS — Across the continent of Europe, anti-European Union populists and proponents of closer unity made a final push for support Sunday as 21 nations went to the polls in a continent-wide battle for influence at the European Parliament.

Right-wing nationalists who want to slash immigration into Europe and return power to national governments are expected to make gains, though mainstream parties are tipped to hold onto power in the 751-seat legislature that sits in both Brussels and Strasbourg.

The election began on Thursday, but most of the EU’s 28 member states, including the biggest of all, Germany and France, are voting on Sunday, and the results are expected overnight.

“I don’t want to see a right-wing populist Europe (that) wants to destroy the idea of togetherness,” said Manfred Weber, the lead candidate of the Christian Democrat center-right EPP group, currently the biggest in the legislature.

Leading the challenge to the established order is Italy’s hard-line interior minister, Matteo Salvini, head of the League party, who is assembling a group of like-minded parties from across Europe.

“We need to do everything that is right to free this country, this continent, from the illegal occupation organized by Brussels,” Salvini told a rally in Milan this past weekend that was attended by the leaders of 11 nationalist parties.

As he voted in Budapest on Sunday, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban said he hoped the election will bring a shift toward political parties that want to stop migration.

The migration issue “will reorganize the political spectrum in the European Union,” said Orban, who recently met with Salvini but has not committed to joining the Italian group.

In the face of a more united hard-line wing in the parliament, traditional parties like the EPP and the center-left socialist S&D group want the mainstream to build a strong coalition to stave off the fringe parties.

Spanish caretaker Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez called on “all the political forces to open a horizon of political stability.”

Projections released by the European Parliament last month show the EPP bloc losing 37 of its 217 seats and the S&D group dropping from 186 seats to 149.

On the far right flank, the Europe of Nations and Freedom group is predicted to increase its bloc of 37 to 62 seats.

Proponents of stronger EU integration, led by French President Emmanuel Macron, argue that issues like climate change and reining in immigration are simply too big for any one country to tackle alone.

Sunday promises to be a long day and night for election watchers — the last polls close at 11 p.m. in Italy, but the European Parliament plans to begin issuing estimates and projections hours earlier with the first official projection of the makeup of the new parliament at 11:15 p.m.

As the dust settles on four days of elections, European leaders will begin the task of selecting candidates for the top jobs in the EU’s headquarters in Brussels. The leaders meet for a summit over dinner Tuesday night.

Hong Kong commemorates Tiananmen protests

By Katie Tam
Associated Press

HONG KONG — More than 2,000 people marched in Hong Kong on Sunday to mark 30 years since a pro-democracy protest in Beijing’s Tiananmen Square ended in bloodshed.

Demonstrators took to the streets holding yellow umbrellas that read “Support Freedom, Oppose Evil Laws.”

Some people carried a black coffin, while others wheeled white crosses and the numbers 6 and 4 — a nod to the day on June 4, 1989, when leaders of China’s ruling Communist Party ordered the military to retake Tiananmen Square from student-led protesters.

Hundreds, if not thousands, of unarmed protesters and onlookers were killed late on June 3 and in the early hours of June 4 as a result of the martial action.

Commemorations of the historic event are strictly banned in mainland China, and those who attempt to raise awareness of or merely discuss it are often punished by authorities. Groups such as the “Tiananmen Mothers” are pressured to stay quiet about the children they lost, while others are detained for making even subtler tributes to the occasion.

The semi-autonomous territory of Hong Kong, however, holds yearly vigils and other gatherings to remember the deceased and pay tribute to the spirit of the protests. This year in Hong Kong, the march took on additional significance as opposition to changes to an extradition law widely seen as eroding the territory’s independent legal system.

Revisions to the law would make it easier to send criminal suspects to mainland China, where critics say they could face vague national security charges and unfair trials.

“One thing, we are facing the challenge of this (extradition law), which affects our basic freedom and liberty,” said Albert Ho, who organized Sunday’s march. He is chairman of the Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movements of China.

“The dedication and the commitment to fight for democracy and human rights is the only way out,” said Ho, who added that he hopes more people will become aware of the situation facing Hong Kong as legislators debate the proposed amendments.

Magnitude 8 quake hits north-central Peru

LIMA, Peru — A large earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 8.0 struck north-central Peru early Sunday, the U.S. Geological survey reported.

The quake, at a moderate depth of 71 miles, struck at 2:41 a.m., 50 miles southeast of the village of Lagunas and 98 miles east-northeast of the larger town of Yurimaguas.

There were no immediate reports of casualties or of major damage. Earthquakes that are close to the surface generally cause more destruction.

The Peruvian government’s emergency department tweeted that it registered an intensity of 7.2 for the quake. In the capital, Lima, people ran out of their homes in fear. Power outages were reported in a number of Amazonian cities.

Earthquakes are frequent in Peru, especially on the Pacific’s so-called Ring of Fire.

Taiwanese same-sex couples attend banquet

TAIPEI, Taiwan — More than 1,000 people attended a mass wedding banquet in Taiwan’s capital to celebrate the marriage of same-sex couples after a landmark decision legalizing the unions.

Taiwan became the first place in Asia to recognize same-sex marriage late last week following a vote by the island’s legislature.

LGBT couples clad in flowing white dresses and matching suits and flower bouquets gathered in Taipei on Saturday evening to walk down a red carpet flanked by cheering supporters.

Taiwan’s state Central News Agency reported that more than 1,600 guests were in attendance, along with 30 same-sex couples who recently tied the knot.

“Never did we give up hope that we would one day get married,” said Janet Hsu, 38, a civil servant who married her partner. They and other pairs were honored in a gala that featured an emcee who wished them “100 years of happiness.”

Military helicopter crash in Mexico kills 6

MEXICO CITY — Authorities in Mexico confirmed that six people died when a military helicopter that was helping fight forest fires crashed in the north-central state of Queretaro.

The Russian-made MI-17 transport helicopter was carrying water to firefighters when it went down Friday in the pine-covered mountains known as the Sierra Gorda. The crash occurred near the village of Jalpan de la Sierra, located on a high mountain range that drops abruptly onto Mexico’s Gulf coast plains.

The National Forests Commission said Saturday that one of its workers died in the crash, raising the toll to six. Five Navy crew members also died.

Mexico has suffered hundreds of brush, pasture and forest fires in recent weeks amid very hot, dry conditions.

From The Associated Press
Delegates return to Norway for Venezuela talks

BY CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela — Representatives of the Venezuelan government and opposition have returned to Norway for talks aimed at resolving the political crisis in the South American country, the Norwegian government said Saturday.

Norway said it will mediate discussions this week in Oslo, in an indication that the negotiation track is gaining momentum after months of escalating tension between Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and Juan Guaido, the U.S.-backed opposition leader.

Top Maduro aide Jorge Rodriguez and Hector Rodriguez, the governor of Miranda state, both of whom were in Oslo earlier this month for a round of exploratory talks, will once again lead the government delegation. They will be joined this time by Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza, said Maduro, who thanked Norway for promoting “peace and stability” in Venezuela through the mediation effort.

Larry Devoe, the government’s top human rights official, is also a delegate member, said a Venezuelan official who was not authorized to discuss the talks and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The opposition delegation is being led by Stalin Gonzalez, a senior member of the opposition-controlled congress, former Caracas area Mayor Gerardo Bryce and former Transport Minister Fernando Martinez Motola, according to an opposition statement.

They will be joined by Vicente Diaz, a supporter of past negotiations with the government who previously served on the nation’s electoral council.

Both delegations traveled Saturday for the meetings, according to officials.

Norwegian Foreign Minister Ine Eriksen Soreide praised both sides for their involvement.

Representatives of Venezuela’s political factions traveled to the European country earlier this month for talks, but it had been unclear if they would continue to engage with one another amid increased tensions over the opposition’s call for a military uprising on April 30.

Addressing supporters on a visit to Venezuela’s Lara state, Guaido said the opposition would not be subjected to “false dialogue” as in the past.

“That is why we are on the streets, aware that we can’t believe anything the dictatorship says,” said the leader of the opposition-led National Assembly.

The U.S. State Department noted the arrests of key opposition figures in Venezuela and said the only thing to negotiate with Maduro is “the conditions of his departure.”

“We hope the talks in Oslo will focus on that objective, and if they do, we hope progress will be possible,” spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus said.

 Israeli president shocked by German skullcap warning

Associated Press

BERLIN — Israel’s president said Sunday he is shocked by a German official’s comment that he wouldn’t advise Jews to wear skullcaps in parts of the country, which is drawing mixed reactions at home.

Felix Klein, the government’s anti-Semitism commissioner, was quoted Saturday as saying, “I cannot recommend to Jews that they wear the skullcap at all times everywhere in Germany.” He didn’t elaborate on what places and times might be risky.

“The statement of the German government’s anti-Semitism commissioner that it would be preferable for Jews not to wear a kippa in Germany out of fear for their safety, shocked me deeply,” Israeli President Reuven Rivlin said in a statement.

He added that “we will never submit, will never lower our gaze and will never react to anti-Semitism with defeatism — and expect and demand our allies act in the same way.”

Government statistics released earlier this month showed that the number of anti-Semitic and anti-foreigner incidents rose in Germany last year, despite an overall drop in politically motivated crimes.

Germany’s main Jewish leader, Josef Schuster, told news agency dpa “it has long been a fact that Jews are potentially exposed to danger in some big cities if they can be recognized as Jews.”

He added that he pointed that out two years ago, “so it is to be welcomed if this situation gets more attention at the highest political level.”

Others were sharply critical of Klein’s comment. Michel Friedman, a former deputy leader of Germany’s main Jewish group, said it was an admission of failure and that “the state must ensure that Jews can show themselves everywhere without fear.”

Bavaria’s state interior minister, Joachim Herrmann, said that wearing a skullcap is part of religious freedom. “Everyone can and should wear his skullcap wherever and whenever he wants,” he said.

Klein himself told dpa that his statement had been “provocative” and he “wanted to initiate a debate about the safety of the Jewish community in our country.”

“Of course I believe that there must not be no-go areas anywhere in Germany for Jews or members of other minorities,” he said.

New South African president sworn in; says challenges ‘are going to be solved’

Associated Press

PRETORIA, South Africa — South African President Cyril Ramaphosa on Saturday urged the country to pursue “an extraordinary feat of human endeavor” as he was sworn in for a five-year term with a delicate fight against government corruption ahead of him.

“The challenges our country face are huge and real,” Ramaphosa told some 30,000 people in the capital, Pretoria, with several African leaders in attendance.

“They are not insurmountable. They can be solved. And I stand here today saying they are going to be solved.”

He promised a new era in which officials will improve the lives of South Africans instead of enriching themselves. He called for a state free from graft and “reforms squandered,” and urged fellow citizens to end poverty in a generation.

Both would be immense achievements. Corruption and mismanagement have consumed billions of rand, and South Africa is the world’s most economically unequal country.

Ramaphosa’s inauguration followed his ruling African National Congress party’s 57.5% victory in this month’s election. It was the party’s weakest showing at the ballot box since the ANC took power at the end of the harsh system of racial apartheid in 1994, as voter turnout and confidence fell.

Ramaphosa first took office last year after former president Jacob Zuma was pressured to resign amid corruption scandals that badly damaged public faith in the ANC. A former protege of South Africa’s first black president, Nelson Mandela, Ramaphosa is seen by many as having the potential to clean up both the government and the ruling party’s reputation.
NASA tests multiple drone flights in Reno

By Scott Sonner
Associated Press

RENO, Nev. — NASA has launched the final stage of a four-year effort to develop a national traffic management system for drones, testing them in cities for the first time beyond the operator’s line of sight as businesses look in the future to unleash the unmanned devices in droves above busy streets and buildings.

Multiple drones took to the air at the same time above downtown Reno last week in a series of simulations testing emerging technology that someday will be used to manage hundreds of thousands of small unmanned commercial aircraft delivering packages, pizzas and medical supplies.

“This activity is the latest and most technical challenge we have done with unmanned aerial systems,” said David Korsmeyer, associate director of research and technology at NASA’s Ames Research Center in Mountain View, Calif.

An autonomous drone took off Tuesday from the rooftop of a five-story casino parking garage and landed on the roof of another out of view across the street. It hovered as onboard sensors adjusted for gusty winds before returning close to the center of the launchpad.

Equipped with GPS, others flew at each other no higher than city streetlights but were able to avoid colliding through onboard tracking systems connected to NASA’s computers on the ground.

Similar tests have been conducted in remote and rural areas. The Federal Aviation Administration has authorized individual test flights in cities before but never for multiple drones or outside the sight of the operator.

The new round of tests continues this summer in Reno and Corpus Christi, Texas, marking the first time simulations have combined all those scenarios, said Chris Walach, executive director of the Nevada Institute of Autonomous Systems, which is running the Reno tests of unmanned aerial vehicles, or UAVs.

“We when we began this project four years ago, many of us didn’t have thought we’d be standing here today flying UAVs with advanced drone systems off high-rise buildings,“ he said.

The team adopted a “crawl, walk, run“ philosophy when it initiated tests in 2015, culminating with this fourth round of simulations, said Ron Johnson, project manager for unmanned aircraft systems traffic management at NASA’s Ames Research Center.

“We are definitely in the “run” phase of this development here in Reno,“ he said.

The results will be shared with the FAA. The agency outlined proposed rules in January that would ease restrictions on flying drones over crowds but said it won’t take final action until it finishes another regulation on identifying drones as they’re flying — something industry analysts say could be years away.

Critics assert that the FAA has stymied the commercial use of drones by applying the same rigid safety standard it uses for airlines.

“There can be a lot of Silicon Valley mentality where people don’t want to wait. So, we’re trying to strike a balance between unleashing entrepreneurship and ensuring we’re doing it safely while trying to accelerate acceptance of drones in public,“ Johnson said.

Amazon and FedEx are among the companies that hope to send consumer products by drone by 2020. Drone delivery company Flirtey began testing delivery of defibrillators for cardiac arrest patients last year in Reno.

Johnson said cities present the biggest challenges because of limited, small landing areas among tall buildings that create navigation and communication problems.

He said it became apparent early on that the travel management plans for drones would have to be completely automated because FAA air traffic control centers can’t handle the enormous workload.

The system is being tested with the help of 36 private partners, including drone manufacturers, operators, software developers and third-party service providers, Johnson said.

The system uses software on the ground that communicates flight plans and positions to other software systems. The drones are equipped with programs for landing, avoiding crashes, surveillance, detection and identification — optical cameras and systems similar to radar that work with lasers.

Huy Tran, director of aeronautics at NASA’s Ames Research Center, said her supervisors at NASA headquarters were surprised to hear they had been testing drones in Reno.

“They said, ‘Are you crazy?’ ” she said. “We hope (the test in) Reno shows drones can be flown and land safely.”
THE CENSUS

68M

The estimated age in years of fossils found by construction workers in a Denver suburb. The Denver Museum of Nature and Science said it is exploring the construction site where a dinosaur’s lower leg bone and several ribs were found. Fossil expert Natalie Tott told KOVR-TV the fossils could be from a torosaurus. The fossils are embedded in a 66- to 68-million-year-old rock layer.

The photo shows a dinosaur fossil simulator excavation in sand used for education.

Man accused of taking 2 cars in the same day

FRANKLIN — A New Hampshire man has been accused of stealing two cars in the same day.

Carl Wescott, 61, of Franklin, was arrested Wednesday after police found a woman’s car that she said was stolen at a car wash. Police said the driver departed at a high rate of speed, leading them on a chase. The vehicle eventually crashed into the woods in Franklin.

Earlier Wednesday, Wescott was arrested in Laconia on a charge of possession of a stolen rental vehicle.

Noah’s Ark attraction sues over water damage

WILLIAMSTOWN, Ky. — The owners of Kentucky’s Noah’s ark attraction are demanding their insurance company bail them out after heavy rains caused nearly $1 million in property damage.

The Ark Encounter says in a federal lawsuit that rains in 2017 and 2018 caused a landslide on its access road. The lawsuit said the attraction’s insurance carriers refused to cover the damage.

The 510-foot-long wooden ark has been a popular northern Kentucky attraction since its 2016 opening. The lawsuit said the road has been rebuilt. The ark was not damaged.

Police arrest 3 men recreating movie scene

MOUNT PLEASANT — Wisconsin authorities arrested three men who claimed to be recreating a scene from a movie when police spotted them inside a Jeep wearing masks and holding a gun.

Mount Pleasant police said they got a report of a man with a gun Thursday afternoon. When they responded to the area they encountered three men in the Jeep. Two wore masks and another held a replica BB gun.

Police said the men told officers they were recreating a scene from “Belly,” a 1998 crime film.

The Journal Times reported police found an unknown amount of money and marijuana in the Jeep.

Oriece Carothers, 21, faces charges of marijuana possession with intent to deliver and disorderly conduct; Kaleaf Carothers, 20, has an outstanding warrant; and Sanjuan Bustamente, 39, faces drug charges.

Beaver makes surprise cameo in police video

ANCHORAGE — A police camera caught a beaver’s surprise appearance near a traffic stop in Alaska’s largest city.

Anchorage police posted the brief video on the department’s Facebook page Wednesday showing the creature ambling into the road between two patrol cars.

The beaver then backtracks before disappearing from the screen. Police wrote in the post, “We say it all the time: Rubbernecking is bad.”

Teen fatally shot after home hit by paintballs

HOUSTON — Houston police are investigating the fatal shooting of a 19-year-old after a man whose home was splattered with paintballs said he opened fire because he thought someone was shooting at his residence.

Police said Wednesday that the resident shot at a group of people late Tuesday evening. Police said other residents said they saw multiple people in the front yard before they fled in different vehicles.

Police said four men drove the 19-year-old to a hospital.

Historic tank gets new lemon-lime paint job

BLUEFIELD — A Korean War-era tank owned by the West Virginia National Guard has turned bright lemon-lime yellow.

The reason was a mystery until the sponsor of a science fiction club at Bluefield State College owned up to the mistake in a letter to The Bluefield Daily Telegraph.

Jerry Conner said he took a color sample to a local paint supplier, aiming to match the sample with two gallons of fresh paint.

“We were worried when we opened the containers and found something nowhere near our sample,” Conner said in the letter. He said they painted the whole tank anyway, assuming it would turn olive drab once it dried.

City Manager Dane Rideout said his staff is working with the club to acquire historically accurate paint for the M41 Walker Bulldog.

Police: Man attacked sheriff with tractor

GRAND RIVER — A southern Iowa man was charged with attempted murder after allegedly using a tractor to spear a county sheriff’s car and push the vehicle more than 100 feet.

The Iowa Department of Public Safety said Decatur County Sheriff Ben Boswell and two deputies were called Thursday afternoon to a family dispute at a home near the tiny town of Grand River.

The first deputy who arrived was confronted by Gerry Green-land, 54, who was driving a John Deere tractor outfitted with a front-end bale spear. Police al-lege Greenland drove toward the patrol car but the deputy drove out of the way.

Greenland then allegedly drove toward the sheriff’s car, piercing the driver-side door and pushing the car until finally stopping. Boswell wasn’t hurt.

Someone breaks into home, leaves it clean

MARLBOROUGH — Whoever broke into a Massachusetts man’s home ear-lier this month didn’t take a thing; they did, however, leave the house spotless.

Nate Roman, 44, told The Bos-ton Globe that when he returned to his Marlborough home from work May 15, he couldn’t tell a stranger had been there.

Nothing was missing, but Roman noticed that the beds were made, the rugs vacuumed and the toilets scrubbed. They even crafted origami roses on the toilet paper rolls.

He called the experience “weird and creepy” and contact-ed police.

Civil War fort built by slaves gets designation

NASHVILLE — A Civil War fort in Nash-ville built by slaves has received an international designation for its significance in the history of slavery and blacks.

A news release said the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has named Fort Negley a “Site of Memory” associated with the group’s Slave Route Project.

After Union forces occupied Nashville in 1862, more than 2,700 blacks helped build Fort Negley. About 600 to 800 died.

In January 2018, developers dropped housing and entertain-ment complex plans near the site after archaeologists found human remains are likely still buried there, possibly of slaves who built the fort.
Redefining royalty

Naomi Scott’s Jasmine does more than choose a husband in live-action ‘Aladdin’

BY JOSH ROTTENBERG
Los Angeles Times

Growing up in England, Naomi Scott, like so many other young girls, fell in love at an early age with Disney’s animated heroines — particularly Mulan, Pocahontas and Jasmine from “Aladdin.” But while those three are officially part of Disney’s jugernaut princess line of media franchises and toys, alongside the likes of Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, Belle and Ariel, it wasn’t their ostensible princess-y trappings that enthralled Scott. It was something deeper.

“I just gravitated toward the characters as opposed to the princess side of it,” Scott said on a recent afternoon at the end of a three-hour-long day of interviews to promote Disney’s new live-action remake of “Aladdin,” in which she plays Jasmine. “At the end of the day, that’s what girls will gravitate towards; that person, that human.”

Scott, 26, wasn’t even born when 1992’s “Aladdin” hit theaters, one of a string of hits that fueled Disney’s ’90s animated renaissance. Now the actress and singer finds herself bringing three-dimensional life to a character she once pretended to be as a child. It’s a lot to wrap her head around.

“It has brought the Palm Dog home to me, owned by Brad Pitt’s character in ‘Once Upon a Time... in Hollywood,’” said the three-time Emmy nominee who is the original voice of Jasmine. She added, “In the original movie, as great as it is that it has brought the Palm Dog home to me, it is a fictional country, some took to social media to decry the casting of Scott, arguing that the actress, who is of Gujarati Indian and British descent, was taking a role that should have gone to a Middle Eastern actress.

Scott, perhaps best known to American moviegoers from her role in the 2017 reboot “Power Rangers,” says dealing with the intense scrutiny that goes along with a high-profile project like “Aladdin” has been “a good learning curve.”

“You have to just be comfortable with knowing in yourself what you’re doing and not allow outside voices to get into this part,” she said, pointing to her heart. “I’m very proud of this movie and how diverse our cast is and what it represents and the message of the movie.”

Tarantino top dog at Cannes Film Festival

Whether or not Quentin Tarantino wins the Palme d’Or this year, at least he’s not coming home without a trophy.

The director of the Cannes Film Festival entry “Once Upon a Time... in Hollywood” scooped up the top prize at the Palm Dog Awards. The awards are handed out annually to the canine stars — and human directors — of the festival’s most dog-centric flicks.

Tarantino surprised audience members Friday when he turned up to receive the trophy — a red dog collar — in person. He cheered pit bull Brandy, which is owned by Brad Pitt’s character in the film.

“I want to dedicate this to my wonderful actress Brandy. She has brought the Palm Dog home to America,” Tarantino said.

Levine leaving ‘The Voice’ after 16 seasons

It turns out Adam Levine’s last appearance on “The Voice” was his swan song.

The pop star, 40, will not return to the NBC singing competition series for its upcoming 17th season, “The Voice” host Carson Daly announced May 24 on the “Today” show.

“After 16 seasons, Adam Levine — our beloved coach and friend — has decided to leave ‘The Voice,’” Daly said.

“Adam was one of the original coaches that launched the show, winning the competition three times and inspiring many of the artists that he worked so closely with over the years.”

The Maroon 5 frontman wrote a lengthy Instagram post May 24, saying the Emmy-winning show “went on to be a life shaping experience that will be close to my heart forever.”

Levine will be replaced by a familiar face, as former coach Gwen Stefani will return to fill Levine’s void. She last served as a coach on “The Voice” during its 12th season.

Levine’s departure leaves country star Blake Shelton — Stefani’s boyfriend — as the only remaining original coach on the show.

Daly did not say why Levine decided to leave. The current judging panel will now be Shelton, Stefani, John Legend and Kelly Clarkson.

Disney
Remember the true meaning of Memorial Day

BY MEAGHAN MOBBS
Tribune News Service

I f you’ve lost someone to war or conflict, every day is a kind of Memorial Day.

For the rest of us, once a year we are called upon to actively honor the sacrifice of our military men and women who’ve died in service to our nation.

People have a “tendency… to forget the purpose of Memorial Day and make it a day of Cookouts, parades and charity, instead of a day of memory and tears.”

No, this is not a recent tweet or a pithy social media caption. It was written by a World War I veteran in 1913, who felt the meaningfulness of Memorial Day was slipping through the American conscience.

While the nuances of Memorial Day are debated in the historical community, the most important takeaway is that its origins are in the Civil War. This is of particular note because every American lost someone in that bloody conflict. An estimated 572,000 were killed — 2.4% of the population in 1860. Comparatively, 2.2% were killed in our wars with Iraq and Afghani stan right now, those killed in action would total 7.8 million.

That is nearly the equivalent of the combined population of Los Angeles, Chicago and Dallas or the entirety of Washington state. The current number of Americans who have died in World War II, Vietnam or Iraq is far below those numbers.

So when Memorial Day, or Decoration Day in its infancy, was established, every single American was memorializing or remembering someone killed at war. The burden was shared and the cost of war was well understood by the entire nation.

In a different way, the same might be said about nearly every conflict until 1973, when the draft was abolished. Arguably, the civilian-military divide has only grown wider since then, with less than 1% of our population serving in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Simply put, there are entire towns across America whose families have not sent a single son or daughter to our nation’s longest war.

To that point, in 2001, a Gallup poll established that only 28% of Americans knew the exact number of Americans who died in our wars with Afghanistan and Iraq. A vast majority of the post-9/11 veteran generation believes that the civilian public does not understand their families’ problems, a belief shared by the majority of the general population.

Moreover, half of Americans say the recognition of Memorial Day and the understanding of their sacrifices, has made little difference in their lives.

In an effort to combat this nonchalance and societal malaise, Congress established a National Moment of Remembrance to be observed every Memorial Day at 3 p.m. The time is intentional, predicated on the belief it is when most Americans are the busiest, busting about and enjoying their day. The purpose: “to remember and renew the legacy of Memorial Day with greater strides made to demonstrate appreciation of those loyal people of the United States whose valiant efforts represent America’s sacrifice to the future of the United States.”

Great intention, poor execution.

We need fewer moments of silence and more meaningful moments of sacrifice to our younger generations. It is not in the multitude of silence that change is made. In remembrance of those men and women who’ve “borne the battle” raise their voices in memory of those who have gone before.

If we are truly honor those who gave their last full measure of devotion, we must be active, not passive, in our strides to improve those values upon the broad public.

We are most at risk when we forget where we come from, where we’ve been, and who we are. As the 75th anniversary of D-Day approaches, this Memorial Day feels particularly poignant. The last vestiges of the Greatest Generation are upon us, as the Korean and Vietnam Veterans enter their final years.

Too soon, the burden of remembering will be passed along to those who did not experience it in their lifetime. Memorial Day policy is about a lot more than just border enforcement or ICE raids. It’s also about that kind of living an immigrant to the U.S. can earn, and on that score the Republicans are often the more pro-immigrant party.

Meaghan Mobbs is a clinical psychology predoctoral fellow at Columbia University where she researches, speaks and writes extensively about modern day military and veteran issues. She is a West Point graduate, former Army captain and Afghanistan veteran.

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Judge: Anheuser-Busch must pull some ads

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — A Wisconsin judge has ordered Anheuser-Busch to stop suggesting in advertising that MillerCoors’ light beers contain corn syrup, wading into a fight between two beer giants that are losing market share to small independent brewers.

U.S. District Judge William Conley for the Western District of Wisconsin on Friday granted a preliminary injunction sought by MillerCoors that temporarily stops Anheuser-Busch from using the words “corn syrup” in ads without giving more context.

MillerCoors sued its rival in March, saying St. Louis-based Anheuser-Busch has spent as much as $30 million on a “false and misleading” campaign, including $13 million in its first commercials during this year’s Super Bowl.

However, the ruling did not affect all of Anheuser-Busch’s advertising targeting MillerCoors, allowing the commercials that premiered at the Super Bowl to keep airing.

Anheuser-Busch’s ad drew a rebuke from the National Corn Growers Association, which thanked MillerCoors for its support. In its lawsuit, MillerCoors said it’s “not ashamed of its use of corn syrup as a fermentation aid.”

Corn syrup is used by several brewers during fermentation. During that process, corn syrup is broken down and consumed by yeast so that none of it remains in the final product. Bud Light is brewed with rice instead of corn syrup, but Anheuser-Busch uses corn syrup in some of its other beverages, including Stella Artois Cidre and Busch Light beer.

MillerCoors applauded the ruling and said Anheuser-Busch should be trying to grow the beer market, not “destroy it through deceptive advertising.”

Cans of Miller Lite move on a conveyor at the MillerCoors Brewery in Golden, Colo. A judge has ruled that rival brewer MillerCoors must pull ads suggesting Miller’s beer contains corn syrup.

Judge: Anheuser-Busch must pull some ads

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Carmaker Fiat Chrysler Automobiles and French automaker Renault are in talks about a possible alliance, challenges in the industry.

Fiat Chrysler has for months been the subject of merger speculation, with PSA Peugeot also reportedly interested in an Anheuser-Busch has the biggest U.S. market share at 24.8% and 41.6%, respectively, but they’ve been losing business in recent years to smaller independent brewers, imports, and wine and spirits, according to the Brewers Association.

MillerCoors maintains Anheuser-Busch is preying on health-conscious consumers who have negative connotations of corn syrup, sometimes confusing it with the high-fructose corn syrup in sodas.

Source: Fiat Chrysler, Renault in talks about alliance

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Carmaker Fiat Chrysler Automobiles and French automaker Renault are in talks about a possible alliance, as both companies seek to address technological and regulatory

Fiat Chrysler has for months been the subject of merger speculation, with PSA Peugeot also reportedly interested in an alliance.

Fiat Chrysler CEO Mike Manley told analysts earlier this month that he expects further consolidation in the industry in the near term.

The talks come as Renault seeks a way forward in its partnership with Nissan and Mitsubishi, frayed since the arrest of former Nissan Chairman Carlos Ghosn in Japan.

WEATHER OUTLOOK

MONDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

MONDAY IN EUROPE

TUESDAY IN THE PACIFIC

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

ACROSS
1 Beer ingredient 5 Adj. modifier 8 Taverns 12 "The Middle" actress Heaton 14 Denny's rival 15 Susan of "Dead Man Walking" 16 Donated 17 Business mag 18 Rose and fell on the sea 20 Chicago cagers 23 Seethe 24 God of war 25 Adirondack lake 28 Martini ingredient 29 "Star Wars" baddie 30 Pirate's chart 32 Arabian nomad 34 Minus 35 Melodies 36 Blitzin's boss 37 Two-piece suit 40 Jazzy style 41 Greek vowels 42 Revolutionary War battle 47 Hamlet, e.g. 48 Stumble on 49 Winter coaster 50 Thanksgiving veggie 51 Section

DOWN
1 AWOL pursuers 2 Bond rating 3 USPS delivery 4 Nature walks 5 Outlet letters 6 God, in Roma 7 Eighth U.S. president 8 London landmark 9 Melville captain 10 Peregrinates (Abbr.) 11 Raced 13 Hostels 19 Sharif of "Funny Girl" 20 Purse 21 "Topaz" author 22 Sultry Horne 23 Loses color 25 Clerics' robing room 26 "So be it" 27 Group of actors 29 Futile 31 Unpaid TV ad 33 Elevated 34 Portable PC 36 Daytime drama 37 Hotel furniture 38 Slanted type (Abbr.) 39 Welles role 40 Edge 43 Coach Parseghian 44 Eggs 45 Berlin's country (Abbr.) 46 Museum display

Answer to Previous Puzzle

CRYPTOQUIP

OGYOTZFAPDNLFDFFIDWICFCUDWFUFOGYCUCJRIDEICAYFLYWWZFGZH"RDNJDRYWTFZEFCCPP."

Saturday's Cryptoquip: What should be the favorite fruity beverage of church members who aren't ordained? LAYMAN-ADE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals K
Round-the-world news for America’s military.

Stripes.com supplies constant updates, on news of interest — including reports from our overseas military bases in Europe, Pacific, Southwest Asia and the Mideast, and coverage of the Pentagon and Capitol Hill.
Also available on mobile apps for Android smartphones and as an iOS app for both iPhone and iPad.
College softball

**Division I Super Regionals**

- [OKlahoma State](#)
- [Florida State](#)
- [Arkansas](#)
- [Tennessee](#)
- [Florida](#)
- [Kentucky](#)
- [North Carolina](#)
- [Mississippi State](#)
- [Oklahoma](#)
- [Virginia](#)
- [Arizona](#)
- [Mississippi](#)

**NCAA Division I Special Event**

- [Syracuse](#)
- [Stony Brook](#)
- [Virginia](#)
- [Wagner](#)
- [Drexel](#)
- [Tennessee](#)
- [North Carolina State](#)
- [Miami (Ohio)](#)
- [Tony coaches](#)
- [Tony coaches](#)

**College baseball**

- [College softball](#)
- [Division I Super Regionals](#)
- [NCAA Division I Special Event](#)

**Sports on AFN**

- [College baseball](#)
- [College softball](#)
- [Division I Super Regionals](#)
- [NCAA Division I Special Event](#)

**Scores**

- [College softball](#)
- [Division I Super Regionals](#)
- [NCAA Division I Special Event](#)

**Pro soccer**

- [MLS](#)
- [Eastern Conference](#)
- [Western Conference](#)

**Auto racing**

- [Asco 300](#)
- [NASCAR Xfinity Series](#)
- [NASCAR Camping World Truck Series](#)

**Golf**

- [The Colonial](#)
- [PGA Tour](#)
- [Junior Players Championship](#)

**Deals**

- [Saturday’s transactions](#)

**NCAA Division III**

- [Super Regionals (Best-of-3)](#)
- [Best-of-3](#)
- [Super Regionals](#)

**Friday’s schedule**

- [5 of 6](#)
- [2019](#)
- [Super Regionals](#)

**Senior PGA Championship**

- [2013](#)
- [2014](#)
- [2015](#)

**Senior PGA Championship at At Kechelby Ranch Club**

- [2016](#)
- [2017](#)

**College football**

- [College softball](#)
- [Division I Super Regionals](#)
- [NCAA Division I Special Event](#)
**HIGH SCHOOL: DODEA EUROPE**

**Royals rule baseball again**

**By Gregory Broome**

Stars and Stripes

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — Ramstein baseball is royal once again. The Royals edged Stuttgart 5-4 Saturday at Ramstein Southside Fitness Center, reclaiming the first and major title in the DODEA Europe Division I championship game and replacing a forgettable regular season with postseason triumph.

“Nothing regular about Warriors’ title”

**By Gregory Broome**

Stars and Stripes

LANDSTUHL, Germany — Wiesbaden wrote the final chapter of one of the most compelling andlog stories in DODEA Europe history Saturday, beating Ramstein 9-5 in the Division I softball championship game and replacing a forgettable regular season with postseason triumph.

“Saints cap turnaround with first baseball title”

**By Gregory Broome**

Stars and Stripes

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — A new Division II/III baseball champion was crowned Saturday, in more ways than one.

Aviano beat Spangdahlem 13-5 in the small-school championship game at Ramstein Southside Fitness Center, claiming the first baseball title in the school’s history and completing a remarkable ascent from the depths of Division II/III to its peak.

“It’s amazing to be a part of this,” said Saints star Nick Smith, who had an RBI and three runs scored in the game. “To come out here, get a banner, first one, it feels great.”

Aviano coach Kevin Lehde took over a program mired in a multi-season losing streak and squarely in the division’s basement. But steady improvement led to an encouraging berth in the 2018 semifinals, and a strong spring set them up for success in this tournament, where it arrived with considerable fan support.

“The spirit that our school shows for our sports teams is immeasurable,” Smith said.

That spirit spilled over onto the field as the Saints emerged as the tournament’s most overpowering team. An early close call, namely the 8-7 opening win over the same Spangdahlem team it eventually faced for the title, was the impetus for the team to swing away in a 24-1 preliminary rout of Ansbach and a 17-0 dismantling of defending champion Sigonella in a Friday semifinal.

“We just spent our time hitting in the cages, making sure everything was correct,” Smith said. “After that we just piled on runs every game.”

Aviano’s productive bats allowed it to conserve its pitching staff, and Smith’s no-hitter against Sigonella on Friday gave Payne Varnum “rested and ready to go” for his planned start in the title game, Lehde explained.

“Having pitchers that can throw strikes and throw with pace is everything,” Lehde said.

“The fact that we still had one, I think was big,” the big deal.”

Varnum made good on the opportunity, earning a strikeout to escape a bases-loaded threat in the first inning and then settled in for the win. The Saints plated five runs in the bottom half of that opening frame, giving their pitcher all the support he needed.

“Lehde is nervous, but I was preparing, so I was ready,” said Varnum, who aided his own cause with a 3-for-3, two-RBI performance at the plate.

**Sigonella earns three-peat**

**By Gregory Broome**

Stars and Stripes

LANDSTUHL, Germany — Sigonella won the three-peat its sought on Saturday, routing Rota 11-1 for its third consecutive DODEA Europe Division II/III softball championship.

While title celebrations are beginning to seem routine for the Jaguars, this season’s title didn’t come as easy as it looked, or as easily as the previous year’s, sophomore standout Averi Chandler said.

Sigonella entered the 2018 tournament a prohibitive favorite to repeat, a fact that Chandler said was the team “a little bit big-headed.”

This year’s team faced considerably more adversity, prompting the Jaguars to refocus as they looked to extend their title reign.

“We didn’t have an easy season. We lost half of our games,” Chandler said. “We came into the tournament not knowing what was going to happen, knowing that we’d have to fight the whole time.”

The six-team field did its best to put up a fight in five preliminary games, though only Rota threw a real scare into the champs. The Admirals, led by eventual tournament MVP Sydney Carroll, played the Jaguars close before taking an 11-4 loss. Sigonella won its other four games by a combined score of 57-8.

Rather than dwell on the difficulties the Admirals could present, however, Sigonella senior Jessica Jacobs said the Jaguars looked to fulfill their own considerable promise.

“This time we put all of our previous games behind us and focused on this one game,” Jacobs said. “Gave every play and every pitch our all.”

Nothing regular about Warriors’ title

**By Gregory Broome**

Stars and Stripes

Wiesbaden’s baseball team ended a dramatic tournament run with a title, defeating Ramstein.

“Urick delivers a pitch in the DODEA Europe Division I softball championship game on Saturday. Urick’s Wiesbaden team ended a dramatic tournament run with a title, defeating Ramstein.”

**Aviano sophomore Payne Varnum delivers a pitch on a Saturday in the Division II championship game. The Saints beat Spangdahlem 13-5.**

**Sigonella seized the three-peat its sought on Saturday, routing Rota 11-1 for its third consecutive DODEA Europe Division II/III softball championship.**

**Nothing regular about Warriors’ title.**

**Sigonella earns three-peat.**

**Saints cap turnaround with first baseball title.**

**None regular about Warriors’ title.**

**Sigonella earns three-peat.**

**Saints cap turnaround with first baseball title.**

**Sigonella earns three-peat.**
Fielding sets new mark in girls 3,200

By Jennifer H. Swan
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — One record was shattered on a day that saw a parade of returning and new champions take their places on the podium Saturday.

Stuttgart sophomore McKinley Bivins also won the shot put competition on Friday, Aviano freshman Elizabeth Woodruff also took the discus title at the DODEA Europe track and field championships Saturday, with a throw of 117 feet.

“Actually, the girls did so well, and this is their first year,” said first-year coach Gabriell Horton. “I think they really strategize,” said first-year coach Gabriell Horton.

Elizabeth Woodruff also took the discus title at the DODEA Europe track and field championships Saturday, with a throw of 117 feet.

But Donnelly, Lynch and Mock converted the next three for the Red Devils, while Radel, Brie Barnett and Megan Kirby failed to convert for the Panthers.

After losing the 2018 final 5-3 to ASIJ, the Red Devils “came back really motivated and wanting to put in the extra work” to earn redemption, Hindie said. “Outstanding. This is such a special group of players.”

The Red Devils boys climbed the ladder in tournaments they played this season. Kinnick took third place in the Perry Cup tournament in March at Iwakuni, then finished second in the DODEA-Japan tournament at the same venue in April.

“I am beside myself,” said Red Devils first-year coach Tim Rippeth, who transferred to Kinnick from Humphreys last summer. “They played their hearts out. I am so proud of my guys.”

Despite being shut out for most of the first half and not getting a goal from Pacific leading scorer Kai Sullivan (35 goals), who earned tournament MVP and Golden Boot honors, the Red Devils didn’t fret, Rippeth said.

Kinnick went in front to stay on Boran’s goal in the 35th minute. Nishiyama iced it with six minutes left and the title was Kinnick’s.

The Red Devils played just two matches before Far East following the DODEA-Japan tournament “and we came back from that long layoff a little rusty,” Rippeth said. “But we found our form again, got stronger as we played on and we peaked at the right time.”

The Red Devils finished 18-3-1 and the Panthers 12-3-7 for the season.

Stars and Stripes

Kinnick’s boys and girls soccer team made school history some 1,000 miles apart on Friday afternoon at Yokosuka Naval Base and Kadena Air Base — with victories in their respective Far East Division I finals.

Maggie Donnelly, Jenna Lynch and Jillian Mock each scored in the shootout at Yokosuka as the Red Devils outlasted Kadena 3-2 in penalty kicks to win their second D-I title in three years. Kinnick’s girls followed the Far East final the past five years.

In the boys final on Okinawa, where there was was hardly such drama, Kinnick’s defense held Kadena’s potent offense scoreless, and Jack Boran and Ryo Nishiyama each got their ninth goals of the season as the Red Devils blanked the Panthers 2-0 for their school-first D-I title.

The five-day event began.

It was hot,” Fielding said, of the girls’ first day. “I didn’t think we were deep enough to compete for the team title. They stuck together, worked every single day,” he said. “It’s exciting that they actually get a chance to win.”

On the boys side, Kaiserslautern ended cross-town rival Ramstein’s run of Division I titles by scattering points across multiple events.

“We didn’t win a lot of first-place trophies, but we were able to put a lot of points together and really strategize,” said first-year coach Gabriell Horton. “I think Ramstein has won the team seven years in a row. It feels good to be able to hang one up in our gym.”

Kaiserslautern senior Austin Highy ended a stellar career with the Raiders by defending his title in the shot put and earning third in the discus throw. He earned a total of five medals at Europeans in four years.

Aviano freshman Elizabeth Woodruff began her DODEA Europe track and field career with a bang, winning both the discus throw and the shot put. Of 13 throwers in the discus finals, Woodruff — who hurled the discus 117 feet for the win — was the only freshman.

“Really fun,” she said of competing at Europeans, “especially being a freshman because no one expects you to be so good.”

Besides Fielding and Woodruff, a number of multiple-event winners made their marks.

Wiesbaden senior Markze Middlebrooks turned up the after-burners to take both the 100 and 200 dashes in a display of versatility, he also won the long jump — despite being only a sixth seed and fell just short of gold in the high jump based on number of attempts. Rota senior Callum Wilkerson took the high jump title, clearing the bar with fewer misses than 6-1.

Middlebrooks’ teammate Garrett Armei won both the 110 and 300 hurdles; in the 300 hurdles, an event he missed last year due to an injury, Armei was the only athlete to crack 40 seconds.

On the girls’ side, Wiesbaden senior Whitney Bivins ran 59.67 in the 400 to hold off a surge during the final stretch from Shovonada Jones, a Lakenheath freshman who clocked 60.95 seconds.

Bivins also won the 200 and anchored the Warriors’ winning 1,600 relay team, along with freshman Myriam Friel, sophomore Ashanti Scott and junior Kaela Catianna Bivins-Turner. In the 100, Bivins missed gold by 1/100th of a second, edged out by teammate Isabella Pizarro, a talented sophomore who also won the triple jump.

Ramstein senior Denver Dalpias kicked early in the 800 — a strategy that paid off with his first title in the event at Europeans.

The girls 3,200 was only a contest for second and beyond. Fielding led from the get-go and started lapping runners on the sixth lap.

Her time of 11:07.78 dustom the old record of 11:27.24, set in 2012 by former Ramstein runner Jessica Kafer.

“It was hot,” Fielding said, of trying to break the record as a hot sun beat down on the track. She kept on task by watching the clock. “I was racing my time,” she said.

High School

Kinnick sweeps D-I soccer titles

Stars and Stripes

Kinnick’s girls celebrate their second Far East Division I title in three years after beating Kadena on Friday.

Kinnick’s boys and girls soccer team made school history some 1,000 miles apart on Friday afternoon at Yokosuka Naval Base and Kadena Air Base — with victories in their respective Far East Division I finals.

Maggie Donnelly, Jenna Lynch and Jillian Mock each scored in the shootout at Yokosuka as the Red Devils outlasted Kadena 3-2 in penalty kicks to win their second D-I title in three years. Kinnick’s girls followed the Far East final the past five years.

In the boys final on Okinawa, where there was was hardly such drama, Kinnick’s defense held Kadena’s potent offense scoreless, and Jack Boran and Ryo Nishiyama each got their ninth goals of the season as the Red Devils blanked the Panthers 2-0 for their school-first D-I title.

The five-day event began.

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Dragons can’t derail ASIJ

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — For six straight years, teams have tried to find a way to halt American School In Japan In School’s Far East Division I baseball tournament dominance.

They’ve failed as many times. Friday was no exception, as Ian Donahue pitched four innings of shutout ball and Ken Hamner and Taiyo Ueda combined for three doubles and five RBIs as the Mustangs defeated the 13th-seeded Tigers 3-2 and beat Kubasaki for the second straight season 13-3 in the final.

Despite the one-sided defeat, coach Randy Mortimer said that his Dragons even got to the final. “Nobody expected us to get here,” Toot said of Kubasaki team with two juniors, six sophomores and five freshmen.

“Get to here is an accomplishment for us. But they (Musk­tangs) hit everybody we threw at them. It was too much to deal with for our young team.”

It was the Mustangs seventh overall in the 10 years.

Kinnick’s girls celebrate their second Far East Division I title in three years after beating Kadena on Friday.
**HIGH SCHOOL: FAR EAST CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**Korea sweeps softball crowns**

BY DAVE ORNAUER

NAVAL AIR FACILITY ATSUGI, Japan — The stars were aligned Friday as DODA Korea softball teams were concerned. Never before had Korea teams swept Far East softball tournament titles ... until Friday, when Humphreys shut out American School In Japan 10-0 in Division I and Daegu outslugged Yokota 9-2 for the Division II crown.

“This was for Korea,” Blackhaws coach Shuri Smith said after the Warriors got the final out to complete the title sweep.

**Daegu 9, Yokota 2:** On the same field where the Warriors lost to Edgren in last year’s final, Daegu achieved redemption behind the right arm of MVP Bethani Newbold and the bat of Reyann Belford, who knocked in four runs with a pair of doubles.

“It feels so good,” said Newbold, who scattered eight hits and walked three while striking out six Panthers. “We came out here and played with heart. We had grit. I give credit to my team. Without them, we wouldn’t have won this.”

Belford doubled in two runs with two outs in the bottom of the first, and repeated the feat with one out in the third. The Panthers scratched out two unearned runs in the fifth to cut the gap in half, but the Warriors broke it open in their half of the frame on two unearned runs, two bases-loaded walks and a Newbold RBI single.

Newbold helped seal it with a strikeout to end the sixth with the Warriors up 9-2.

**Humphreys 10, ASIJ 0:** After a scoreless first two innings, the Blackhaws (13-3) broke it open by scoring six runs in the middle two frames, punctuated by Raquell Barnes’ two-run home run. But even before she sent the ball soaring over the left field fence, “I knew we had it,” Barnes said.

“Our defense was very strong,” Barnes said, “and then our hitting came along after that.”

Pitching also played a role, led by tournament MVP Isabelle Mauelsby, who pitched every inning of every game for the Blackhawks this season. “I feel fine,” Mauelsby said, confessing to some soreness after the first couple of days’ play. “It’s worth it.”

The way we came back to get to this championship, it says a lot about our boys. They were hungry,” Anderson said. “If you want to win, you do it against the best. Hats off to CAJ. They’re a great team.”

**Division II roundup**

**Zama girls end title drought**

Stars and Stripes

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI, Japan — In their two previous Far East championships, Christian Academy Japan had one or two girls’ soccer teams win division titles.

Not so much this season, when CAJ relied on a lineup of newer, younger players who nonetheless made it three straight Far East Division II tournament titles.

Enosh Mutenda is chased by Yokota’s Ken Baarde. Mutenda scored all the goals in CAJ’s 3-1 title win, and was named the tournament’s MVP.

**Panthers stretch baseball dynasty**

Stars and Stripes

Kadena.

“The kids worked hard all season, they never backed down,” Thomas said. “It’s great that they got this experience and take it (title) home with them.”

Defense, Thomas said, was key in the Panthers’ Far East title drive. In their four games, Yokota outscored its opponents 78-1, but more importantly committed just one error in the tournament.

“We cut down on our mistakes; that was one of the things we stressed, being fundamentally sound, aware, and playing our best ball at all times,” Thomas said.

DeMarco allowed no walks and struck out six in the victory. Leo Schinker had the lone Cobras’ hit and took the loss, allowing seven hits and three walks while striking out four in 3⅔ innings.

It was the Cobras’ first D-II title-game appearance, coming two years after King was unable to field a team.
**American League**

### East Division
- **New York Yankees**
- **Boston Red Sox**
- **Toronto Blue Jays**
- **Baltimore Orioles**
- **Minnesota Twins**

### Central Division
- **Chicago White Sox**
- **Cleveland Indians**
- **Detroit Tigers**
- **Kansas City Royals**
- **Tampa Bay Rays**

### West Division
- **Los Angeles Angels**
- **Oakland Athletics**
- **Texas Rangers**
- **Houston Astros**
- **Seattle Mariners**

### National League

#### East Division
- **Philadelphia Phillies**
- **New York Mets**
- **Miami Marlins**
- **Atlanta Braves**
- **Pittsburgh Pirates**

#### Central Division
- **Chicago Cubs**
- **Cincinnati Reds**
- **Cleveland Indians**
- **Pittsburgh Pirates**
- **St. Louis Cardinals**

#### West Division
- **San Francisco Giants**
- **Arizona Diamondbacks**
- **Los Angeles Dodgers**
- **Colorado Rockies**
- **San Diego Padres**

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**MLB Scoreboard**

### National League West

#### Los Angeles Dodgers
- Los Angeles: 2B—Guzman (7), Fletcher
- Scores: 001 000 002—3
- Batters: A.Cerra (3b 4 0 1 0 Rngifo ss-2b 4 1 2 0)
- Phils: Andrus ss 3 0 2 0 Trout cf 4 0 0 0
- Totals: 32 2 5 2
- Totals: 33 3 9 3

#### Los Angeles Angels
- Score: (TBD)

#### San Diego Padres
- Score: San Diego 19, Toronto 4

#### Arizona Diamondbacks
- Score: (TBD)

### American League West

#### Texas Rangers
- Score: Texas at L.A. Angels

#### Chicago White Sox
- Score: Chicago White Sox at Minnesota

### American League East

#### New York Yankees
- Score: New York 7, Los Angeles 2B—Guzman (7), Fletcher
- Scores: 001 000 002—3
- Batters: A.Cerra (3b 4 0 1 0 Rngifo ss-2b 4 1 2 0)
- Phils: Andrus ss 3 0 2 0 Trout cf 4 0 0 0
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- Totals: 33 3 9 3

#### Boston Red Sox
- Score: Boston 6, New York 2

#### Toronto Blue Jays
- Score: Toronto 19, San Diego 4

#### Baltimore Orioles
- Score: Baltimore 6, Minnesota 4

### American League Central

#### Chicago White Sox
- Score: Chicago White Sox at Minnesota

#### Cleveland Indians
- Score: Cleveland (Rodriguez 1-4) at Boston

#### Detroit Tigers
- Score: Detroit (Hamels 4-0) at Houston

#### Kansas City Royals
- Score: Kansas City at Chicago Cubs

#### Texas Rangers
- Score: Texas at L.A. Angels

#### Seattle Mariners
- Score: Seattle (TBD) at Oakland

### American League West

#### Houston Astros
- Score: Houston (TBD) at Cincinnati (Cas- Rodriguez 1-4) at Boston

#### Cleveland Indians
- Score: Cleveland (Rodriguez 1-4) at Boston

#### Chicago Cubs
- Score: Chicago Cubs (Hamels 4-0) at Houston

#### Milwaukee Brewers
- Score: Milwaukee (Beach 5-2) at San Diego

#### Colorado Rockies
- Score: Colorado (TBD) at San Diego

#### San Diego Padres
- Score: San Diego (TBD) at San Diego

### National League West

#### Arizona Diamondbacks
- Score: Arizona (TBD) at San Diego

#### Colorado Rockies
- Score: Colorado (TBD) at San Diego

#### San Diego Padres
- Score: San Diego (TBD) at San Diego

### National League East

#### Philadelphia Phillies
- Score: Philadelphia (TBD) at New York

#### New York Mets
- Score: New York 5, Detroit 4, 13 innings

#### Miami Marlins
- Score: Miami 10, Atlanta 6

#### Atlanta Braves
- Score: Atlanta 5, Miami 4

### National League Central

#### Chicago Cubs
- Score: Chicago Cubs (Hamels 4-0) at Houston

#### Cincinnati Reds
- Score: Cincinnati 3, Pittsburgh 2

#### Pittsburgh Pirates
- Score: Pittsburgh (TBD) at Cincinnati

### National League West

#### San Diego Padres
- Score: San Diego 19, Toronto 4

#### San Francisco Giants
- Score: San Francisco 9, Arizona 6

#### Arizona Diamondbacks
- Score: Arizona (TBD) at San Diego

### International amateur signing

#### Chicago White Sox
- Score: Chicago White Sox at Minnesota

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**Cardinals, Browns, Braves**

#### Cardinals
- Score: St. Louis 6, Atlanta 5

#### Browns
- Score: Cleveland 2, Philadelphia 1

#### Braves
- Score: Atlanta 5, Miami 4

### Astros, Red Sox

#### Astros
- Score: Texas 7, Los Angeles 3

#### Red Sox
- Score: Boston 6, New York 2

### Padres, Blue Jays

#### Padres
- Score: San Diego 19, Toronto 4

#### Blue Jays
- Score: Toronto 19, San Diego 4

### Padres, Rockies

#### Padres
- Score: San Diego 19, Toronto 4

#### Rockies
- Score: Arizona 13, Colorado 5

### Cardinals, Brewers, Braves

#### Cardinals
- Score: St. Louis 6, Atlanta 5

#### Brewers
- Score: Milwaukee 9, San Diego 2

#### Braves
- Score: Atlanta 5, Miami 4

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**Calendar**

#### June 3
- Home run derby

#### June 15
- International amateur signing period closes

#### July 29
- Owners meeting in New York.
The Padres’ run total was the most in the majors this season. They nearly matched the franchise record of 20 runs, done twice and most recently in Montreal in 2001.

Wil Myers and Hunter Renfroe each hit two home runs and Ian Kinsler and Eric Hosmer also homered. The previous team record was six, set in Cincinnati on July 17, 1998.

Hedges drove in five runs. Myers went 2-for-2, drove in five and scored four times, and Renfroe had four hits, scored four and drove in three.

Myers hit the team-record seventh homer in a five-run eighth that included homers by Hosmer and Renfroe off Sam Gaviglio.

“I did not know that,” Myers said of the record. “That’s pretty cool but it’s not surprising with the guys we’ve got here. We’ve got a lot of power in this lineup and a lot of guys that can really hit.”

Rookie Cal Quantrill (1-2), from nearby Port Hope, Ontario, and the son of former Blue Jays and Padres pitcher, Paul Quantrill, went six innings to earn his first major league win in his fourth career start. He became just the third Canadian-born pitcher to claim his first career win north of the border.

The 24-year-old right-hander struck out a career-high nine, while surrendering three earned runs on seven hits in the Padres' 20 hits.

Hedges launched San Diego’s first slam of the season in the fourth.

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The Padres’ Alex Gordon is tagged out by Yankees catcher Austin Romine as he tried to score during the first inning of the second game Saturday in a doubleheader in Kansas City, Mo.

Jose Quallen/Associated Press

The Royals’ Alex Gordon is tagged out by Yankees catcher Austin Romine as he tried to score during the first inning of the second game Saturday in a doubleheader in Kansas City, Mo.

The Padres’ Hunter Renfroe celebrates with Austin Hedges after hitting a two-run home run against the Blue Jays on Saturday in Toronto. Hedges also hit a grand slam in a 19-4 win.

Yankees hold on to sweep Royals in doubleheader

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Chance Adams’ one-hit shutout of the Kansas City Royals on Saturday until midway through the first game of a day-night doubleheader.

He had an early flight out of Syracuse, N.Y., then caught a connecting flight in Chicago before finally going to the stadium around 1 p.m.

Adams, called up as the 26th player for the New York Yankees, took advantage of his opportunity in the nightcap.

Adams (1-0) threw four innings to win his first career game, allowing one hit, one walk and one hit batsman.

In his third start of the year, Edwin Jackson (0-2) was roughed up for the second straight game.

After surrendering six runs over five innings to Boston on Monday, the right-hander lasted just four innings, giving up seven earned runs on seven hits.

“Tigers 6, Mariners 5:”

Rookie Cal Quantrill (1-2) narrowly over the wall in right-center, ending a four-game losing streak.

“Tigers’ Fiers homered in his first at the Coliseum since pitching a no-hitter this month, and the host Athletics handed the Mariners their fifth straight loss.”

Matt Chapman homered and Ramon Laureano doubled in his fifth straight game, helping host Washington to the victory.

Mets 5, Tigers 4 (13):”

Tomas Nido homered against Buck Farmer leading off the 13th inning.

Nido drove in the winning run double to right field capped a five-run fourth inning for the Nationals.

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Angels 3, Rangers 2:”

Kole Calhoun drove in the tying run in the ninth inning with an RBI double and then score the winner on pinch-hitter Jared Walsh’s single to left field as host Los Angeles rallied to beat Texas.

Rangers left fielder Hunter Pence wasn’t able to make the play on Walsh’s hit off Shawn Kelley (3-1) and the ball dropped, allowing Calhoun to score and give the Angels a wild victory in which they led most of the way and snapped a five-game losing streak.

Bidenaro Vargas drove in two runs and scored twice for Arizona. Kevin Cron added a double and two RBIs in his major league debut.

It was awesome, a ton of fun,” he said. “Obviously it’s a little easier when the team puts up 19 runs, but it was fantastic. It was everything that I could have hoped for minus a couple pitches.”

Myers and Kinsler hit back-to-back home runs in the second, a feat duplicat-

ed by Hosmer and Renfroe in the eighth. Hedges launched San Diego’s first slam of the season in the fourth.

Rookie Josh Naylor, from nearby Mississauga, Ontario, had given the Padres a first-inning lead with his first big league home run in his second game, an RBI double.

Naylor and Hosmer each had three of the Padres’ 20 hits.

The Padres, San Diego four games over .500.

are looking a lot better this season with Arizona on July 7, Hedges is just glad things are working out for his boys and come back in the club-house and show up the next day expecting to win.”

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Raptors forward Kawhi Leonard dunks against Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo during the second half of Game 6 of the Eastern Conference finals on Saturday in Toronto.

Advance: Leonard validating Raptors’ trade

Frank Gunn, The Canadian Press/CP

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Frank Gunn, The Canadian Press/CP
Resurgent Blues eager for first Cup

By Stephen Wynn
Associated Press

Seeing the famous photo of Bobby Orr scoring the 1970 Stanley Cup-winning goal to beat his St. Louis Blues,оворы accused him of cheating. But the dream of playing for the Blues and becoming a big-time player finally had come true. 

“Not really,” the legendary coach said. “Because we didn’t have a big opportunity to win that game.”

Orr and the big, bad Boston Bruins swept Bowman’s overmatched, expansion-era Blues in that series. Now 49 years later, Boston is in its third final in nine seasons and St. Louis is back for the first time since 1970, but this Blues-Blues rematch is a showdown between two of the NHL’s best teams since Jan. 1.

“Now it’s more level,” Bowman said. “The [Blues] don’t give a lot of room in their end, and of course their goalie’s been lights out.”

Coming off a sweep of Carolina in the Eastern Conference final, the Bruins are favored in the series that begins Monday in Boston. Goaltender Tuukka Rask is the front-runner to win the Conn Smythe Trophy as playoff MVP. Brad Marchand is playing some of the best hockey of his career with 18 points in 17 games, and there’s a mix of veterans from the 2018 Stanley Cup-winning team and fresh players eager to get their names etched on the trophy.

“I think as you get older, you appreciate it even more, and you realize how hard it is to get to this point and advance and be thankful and stay in the moment,” forward Patrice Bergeron said. “But then it’s back to work, and there’s a lot of work in front of us.”

Unlike in 1970, when the Bruins essentially just had to step on the ice to take the title, these Blues won’t go away. They’re currently on a 10-game win streak and tied for the best record in the league in the standings.

“The last couple months in the city have been crazy,” star winger Vladimir Tarasenko said. “The support is amazing. They give us a lot of power. Unbelievable.”

St. Louis is the oldest franchise to win the Stanley Cup, and its drought is the second longest behind the Toronto Maple Leafs’. The Leafs won the season before the Blues came into the league. To finish this improbable run, the Blues have to go through the Bruins, who finished tied for the second-most points this season.

“They are a hard team to play against, a really skilled team,” Tarasenko said. “But we have a hard team, too. It will be some interesting games.”

Bowman’s first thought about the series was that he couldn’t believe how long the Bruins will have to sit out. Boston will have a week and a half between finishing off Carolina and Game 1, and even St. Louis will go six days without playing.

One benefit for the Bruins is they should get captain Zdeno Chara back for the final after he missed Game 4 against Carolina.

NHL scoreboard

Stanley Cup Final

(Best-of-seven, 4 G necessary)

Boston vs. St. Louis

Monday at Boston: AFN-sports2, 2 a.m. Tuesday CET; 9 a.m. Tuesday JKT

Wednesday at Boston: AFN-sports2, 2 a.m. Thursday CET; 9 a.m. Thursday JKT

Saturday at St. Louis: AFN-sports2, 2 a.m. Sunday CET; 9 a.m. Sunday JKT

Tuesday at St. Louis: 2 a.m. Tuesday CET; 9 a.m. Tuesday JKT

Wednesday June 3 at St. Louis: AFN-sports2, 2 a.m. Tuesday CET; 9 a.m. Tuesday JKT

Tuesday, June 6 at Boston: AFN-sports2, 2 a.m. Friday CET; 9 a.m. Friday JKT

Sunday, June 9 at St. Louis: AFN-sports2, 2 a.m. Monday CET; 9 a.m. Monday JKT

Wednesday, June 12 at Boston: AFN-sports2, 2 a.m. Thursday CET; 9 a.m. Thursday JKT

By Annie Stapleton
Associated Press

Bart Starr, the gentlemanly quarterback and catalyst of Vince Lombardi’s powerhouse Green Bay Packers teams of the 1960s whose sneak won the famous “Ice Bowl” in 1967, died Sunday. He was 85.

The Packers selected Starr out of the University of Alabama with the 200th pick in the 1956 draft. He led Green Bay to six division titles, five NFL championships and wins in the first two Super Bowls.

The Packers said Starr died in Birmingham, Alabama, where he lived. He had been in failing health since suffering two strokes and a heart attack in 2014.

“A champion on and off the field, Bart epitomized class and was beloved by generations of Packers fans,” Packers President Mark Murphy said in a statement.

“A clutch player who led his team to five NFL titles, Bart could still fill Lambeau Field with electricity decades later during many visits.”

Until Brett Favre came along, Starr was known as the best Packers ever. The team retired his No. 15 jersey in 1973, making him just the third player to receive that honor. Four years later, he was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio.

After losing the 1960 NFL title game in his first playoff appearance, the Packers never lost another playoff game under Starr, going 9-0, including wins over the Kansas City Chiefs and Oakland Raiders in the first two Super Bowls.

Starr’s college career wasn’t very noteworthy and it wasn’t until Lombardi’s arrival in Green Bay in 1959 that Starr, living by his motto “desire and dedication run everything,” began to blossom.

Lombardi liked Starr’s mechanics, his arm strength and especially his decision-making abilities. Under Lombardi’s nurturing, Starr became one of the league’s top quarterbacks.

“If you work harder than somebody else, chances are you’ll beat him though he has more talent than you,” Starr once said. He credited Lombardi for showing him “that by working hard and using my mind, I could overcome my weakness to the point where I could be one of the best.”

The gentlemanly quarterback’s status as a Packers icon was tested by his struggles as the team’s head coach. In nine seasons from 1975-83, he won just 41 percent of his games, going 53-77-3, including 1-1 in the playoffs, part of three decades of futility that followed the glory years.

After football, Starr became a successful businessman in Birmingham, Ala., not far from his hometown of Montgomery, where he was born on Jan. 9, 1934.

Starr was a four-time Pro Bowl selection and two-time All-Pro. He won NFL titles in 1961, ’62, ’65, ’67 and ’68. He was the 1966 NFL MVP and was named to the 1960s All-Decade team. He also was named MVP of the first two Super Bowls.

“Starr was one of the most famous for a run.”

In the NFL championship on Dec. 31, 1967, Starr knifed into the end zone behind guard Jerry Kramer and center Ken Bowman with 16 seconds left to lift the Packers over the Dallas Cowboys 21-17 in what became known as the “Ice Bowl.”

Starr retired following the 1971 season, his career completion percentage of 57.4 was tops in the run-heavy NFL, and his passer rating of 90.5 was second-best ever, behind only Otto Graham.

Starr replaced Dan Devine as Packers head coach in 1975 and would be replaced himself by former teammate Forrest Gregg in 1984 after failing to lead the franchise to the kind of success he did as a player.

In 1965, Starr and his wife, Cherry, helped co-found Rawhide Boys Ranch in New London, Wis. a facility designed to help at-risk and troubled boys throughout the state.

The couple dealt with tragedy in 1988 when their son Brett died at 24 due to complications from cocaine addiction. They also had another son, Bart Jr.

“While he may always be best known for his success as the Packers quarterback for 16 years, his true legacy will always be the respectful manner in which he treated every person he met, his humble demeanor and his generous spirit,” Starr’s family said in a statement.

“His love for all of humanity is well known, and his affection toward the residents of Alabama and Wisconsin filled him with gratitude. He had hoped to make one last trip to Green Bay to watch the Packers this fall, but he shall forever be there in spirit.”

Starr has an NFL award named after him, given annually to a player of outstanding character.
Raptors eliminate Bucks, advance to first NBA Finals

BY IAN HARRISON
Associated Press

TORONTO

Kyle Lowry stole the ball and pushed it ahead, then waited for Kawhi Leonard to arrive before feeding his All-Star teammate for a thunderous one-handed slam over Milwaukee’s Giannis Antetokounmpo.

“The building exploded after that dunk,” Leonard said.

It sure did. Now imagine how it will sound when the NBA Finals come to Toronto for the first time this week.

Leonard had 27 points and 17 rebounds

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The Raptors hoist the NBA Eastern Conference trophy after defeating the Milwaukee Bucks 100-94 in Game 6 of the conference finals on Saturday in Toronto.

NATHAN DENETTE, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP