BEIJING — Countries began evacuating their citizens Wednesday from the Chinese city hardest-hit by a new virus that has now infected more people in China than were sickened in the country by SARS.

The number of confirmed cases jumped to 5,974, surpassing the 5,327 in mainland China during the SARS outbreak in 2002-2003.

The death toll rose to 132, which is still lower than the 348 people who were killed in China by SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome. Scientists say there are still many questions to be answered about the new virus, including just how transmissible and severe it is.

Chartered planes carrying about 200 evacuees each arrived in Japan and the United States early Wednesday, as other countries planned similar evacuations from the city of Wuhan, which authorities have shut down to try to contain the virus.

The first cases in the Middle East

American evacuees get temporary housing at Calif. base Page 8

SEES LAPSES ON PAGE 7

President Donald Trump’s controversial intervention in some recent disciplinary cases has added a political twist.

An Army Green Beret was facing trial last December for allegedly killing a suspected bomb-maker during a 2010 deployment to Afghanistan. But in November, Trump pardoned Maj. Mathew Golsteyn, saying he had been treated unfairly.

Last May, Navy SEAL Adam Matthews was sentenced to one year in military prison for his role in the 2017 hazmat-related death of an Army Green Beret in Africa. And in July, a Navy SEAL was convicted of stripping and punching an unconscious_time out of his deployment.
GM’s Detroit plant going all-electric next year

By David Welch
Bloomberg

General Motors affirmed plans to build electric pickups and SUVs at its Detroit-Hamtramck plant and scheduled the start of production for late next year.

Output of electric Cruise Origin driverless vehicles will follow soon after the initial pickups roll off the line, GM said in a statement on Monday. The automaker committed to investing $2.2 billion in the factory as part of the labor agreement reached last year with the United Auto Workers union.

GM’s investment saves a factory that was marked for closure over a year ago. Detroit-Hamtramck will become GM’s second plant in Michigan making plug-in models, as Chief Executive Officer Mary Barra bets on a demand for electric vehicles that only Tesla Inc. has sold in significant volume thus far.

“It’s not if, it’s when,” GM President Mark Reuss said of EVs catching on with consumers. “Nothing happens by turning on a light switch, making vehicles and seeing consumers adopt them. But the turning point is now and we have to plan for adoption.”

Once fully operational, the Detroit-Hamtramck plant will employ 2,200 workers, according to GM. The automaker plans to build a family of EVs at the factory, including a Hummer truck that will be sold by GMC dealers, people familiar with the matter said earlier this month.

WEATHER OUTLOOK

THURSDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

THURSDAY IN EUROPE

FRIDAY IN THE PACIFIC

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates

Euro costs (Jan. 30).......................... $1.1284
Dollar buys (Jan. 30)......................... 0.8862
British pound (Jan. 30)..................... $1.33
Japanese yen (Jan. 30)..................... 116.00
South Korean won (Jan. 30).............. 1,460.00

Commercial rates

Bahrain (Dinar)............................ 0.3770
British pound............................... $1.3857
Canada (Dollar)............................ 1.3193
China (Yuan)............................... 6.9368
Denmark (Krone).......................... 6.7952
Egypt (Pound).............................. 19.8010
Euro........................................ $1.0697/0.9093
Hong Kong (Dollar)...................... 7.7715
Hungary (Forint).......................... 306.44
Israel (Shekel).............................. 4.5779
Japan (Yen)................................. 109.65
Kuwait (Dinar)............................. 0.9400
Norway (Krone)............................ 6.9212
Philippines (Peso)......................... 50.87
Poland (Zloty).............................. 3.90
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)...................... 3.7519
Singapore (Dollar)......................... 1.3618
South Korea (Won)....................... 1,379.79

WEATHER OUTLOOK

The weather is provided by the
American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.
**Report calls for revamped Indo-Pacific strategy**

**By Wyatt Olson**
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. and its allies must establish new rules, norms and institutions in the Indo-Pacific region as a means of blunting China’s growing military and economic might, a report recommends in a congressionally mandated report released Tuesday.


The 2017 National Security Strategy and 2019 Indo-Pacific Strategy identified so-called “great-power” competition as the new driving force behind the Indo-Pacific strategy, with decisions and force structuring rather than counterterrorism. The competition between the United States and China is of premier importance.

The U.S. has sought to maintain the post-World War II definitions of a “free and open” Indo-Pacific defined by free trade, recognition of international law, transparency and good governance.

The report’s comparison of that to a potential Chinese-led order was stark. Features would include sufficient coercion into acquiescing to China’s preferences on military, economic, and diplomatic matters; economic orders in which Beijing sets trade and investment rules in its favor, with dominance over leading technologies, data, and standards; and Beijing with de facto rule over Taiwan and agenda-setting power over regional institutions.

The postwar order championed by America, however, “has proved insufficient in curbing China’s ability and desire to challenge vital U.S. interests in the region,” the report said.

For example, existing rules for contested domains such as economics, defense, technology and information are inadequate.

The lengthy report includes specific proposals for creating new trade and technology standards, multilateral methods for coordinating on technology issues, new human-rights norms regarding “digital freedom,” a highly networked regional security architecture and greater cooperation with regional partners on matters such as artificial intelligence and telecommunications.

Prioritizing the “China challenge” will require U.S. “willingness to make hard tradeoffs in other regions and with other issues,” the report said.

“Managing the China challenge should be an organizing principle of U.S. foreign policy, not just one among many other pressing priorities in the world,” the report said.

While this more robust strategy would require a whole-of-government approach, the report said, it is crucial for the U.S. to sustain conventional military deterrence with China.

“While the United States still retains an overall military advantage over China, the gap has closed considerably over the last two decades and, absent urgent change, the regional balance may tip in China’s favor by the late 2020s or early 2030s,” the report said. “In certain scenarios, the military balance may already disadvantage the United States. In short, the United States needs a new American way of war.”

The report recommends the Defense Department focus on the U.S. military’s underlying vulnerability to Chinese “systems destruction” warfare, by which damage to a critical component results in systemic failure.

U.S. air bases, aircraft carriers and surface vessels are too vulnerable to Chinese air and missile attacks, while intelligence and surveillance are “brittle” to cyberattacks, the report said. In addition, U.S. ports and airfields are vulnerable to cyber and physical attacks.

By Matthew M. Burke
Stars and Stripes

CAMP KINSEY, Okinawa — Members of the III Marine Expeditionary Force now have a cutting-edge metal 3D printer they say will pay dividends in cost and efficiency when it comes to manufacturing vehicle or weapon parts in the Indo-Pacific region.

The Markforged Metal X 3D printer arrived at the 3rd Maintenance Battalion shop at Camp Kinser piece by piece, finally becoming operational in December, Marine officials said. Using spools of powdered stainless steel, tool steel and nickel alloy, it can simultaneously produce multiple metal parts that would be otherwise difficult to machine or cast.

III MEF is the first expeditionary force to receive one of the $150,000 machines, said 3rd Marine Logistics Group spokeswoman Lt. Tori Sharpe.

The printer is expected to free up Marines who would otherwise spend hours carving parts out of blocks of metal, save money on waste and avoid the downtime associated with ordering parts from the United States.

Plastic 3D printers “are great for prototyping, but where they fall short is, it’s very few [finished] components that they’re able to produce,” said shop foreman Staff Sgt. Quincy Reynolds, 36, of Baltimore.

Reynolds said plastic 3D printers have been in the fleet for only four or five years.

“Whereas with our new metal 3D printer, that opens up a whole new world for us,” he said. “This piece of equipment has been online since the 30th and it’s been online with the multiple prints and then you’re able to have a completed [piece] … that does not need any machining.”

Reynolds’ shop has 12 Marines who spend their days repairing components for vehicles and weapon systems for all III MEF units, he said. This can mean milling parts out of blocks of metal, which can be both wasteful and time consuming.

This process, known as subtractive manufacturing, often requires multiple tool changes and the dedicated attention of at least one Marine working on a single piece for eight to 12 hours at a time.

One miscalculation and the entire process must start over.

The Metal X 3D printer can print multiple pieces at the same time, Reynolds said. Once a Marine makes sure the print’s base layers are correct at the outset, it can be left alone to finish the job, freeing up that Marine.

There is also little to no waste.

Marines can now take on as many as four projects at a time, Reynolds said.

With the Metal X, Marines can design their own parts for printing in a computer-aided design program called SolidWorks or download approved blueprints from the Marine Corps system, Reynolds said.

The printer comes in three separate stations, Reynolds said.

The first is the printer itself, which prints metal objects as large as 13 inches square and bond in plastic on a build plate. The next stage is a wash-and-dry station, which soaks the printed piece in liquid argon to remove the plastic support filament.

The final station is a 290-cubic-inch, coil-heated furnace, Reynolds said. Here, the printed parts are heated for as long as 27 hours at up to 2,700 degrees Fahrenheit and are infused with gases that solidify the metal. Some finished products can even be welded.

The only drawback to the Metal X is the size, Reynolds said, which is about half of the printer capacity. He said plans are already in the works to upgrade to a larger furnace.

The battalion’s goal is to be able to print or manufacture any metal part that III MEF needs, Reynolds said. Thus far, they have made gauges for .50-caliber machine guns, sockets for wrenches and more.

“I think we can add cutting tools to the equation,” Reynolds said.

“We’re asking units, ‘Hey, just give us a problem. Let us figure out the solution for you,’” he said. “Right now, the sky is the limit honestly with this printer. If you can think of it, we can literally do it.”
TBI cases from Iranian attack increase to 50

France urges US to keep up counterterrorism efforts in West Africa

Of the 16 service members newly announced with traumatic brain injury, 15 have returned to duty in Iraq. Pentagon spokesman Lt. Col. Thomas Campbell said in a statement.

Thirty-one of the 50 service members injured were treated in Iraq and returned to duty, he said. Another 18 have been taken to Germany for further treatment.

One service member who had been moved to Germany for other health reasons was diagnosed with traumatic brain injury after arriving there, he said.

Pentagon spokesman Jonathan Hoffman said on Friday that eight of the injured troops had been taken to the United States to receive treatment as outpatients at either their home stations or at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Maryland.

Campbell said Tuesday no information was available whether additional service members had been sent stateside.

The Pentagon said previously it will review its injury reporting requirements in light of the shifting accounts of casualties from the missile strike.

Hoffman said Friday that the changing injury reports were partly a reflection of an existing policy that does not require incidents of traumatic brain injury be reported directly to the Pentagon.

Iran launched 11 ballistic missiles into Iraq in retaliation over a U.S. drone strike Jan. 3 in Baghdad on Iran’s top military official, Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani, who commanded the elite Quds Force.

The missiles landed in al Asad, a base in western Iraq’s Anbar province where about 1,500 U.S. and allied troops are stationed.

France has said that a reduction in the U.S. contribution could seriously undercut the overall French effort. “If the U.S. decided to withdraw from Africa, it would be bad news for us,” President Emmanuel Macron said this month at a summit with leaders of five countries in the region.

“If the United States to continue its own involvement,” Macron said.

Although he has recently deployed thousands more troops to the Middle East, Trump has also called for an end to “endless wars,” particularly in places where he has deemed conflict to be “tribal” and not directly affecting the United States.

“Allies operating in the parts of the world most immediately affected by potential U.S. withdrawals, in the Middle East and Africa, have said they are willing to increase their contributions in those areas but expect the United States to continue its own involvement,” said Hoffman.

“France is OK with a larger European role in the Middle East,” Parly said, “provided this means an enduring U.S. commitment.”

France has expressed concern that U.S. withdrawals, in the Middle East and West Africa, have said they are willing to increase their contributions in those areas but expect the United States to continue its own involvement.

French Defense Minister Florence Parly has pressed the Trump administration this week to continue U.S. military assistance to the French-led counterterrorism mission in West Africa, arguing against tentative plans to reduce U.S. deployments as part of a broader Pentagon realignment.

“We will do our utmost, and I’ve made the case with [Defense Secretary] Mark Esper, for continuation of U.S. assistance, because it achieves so much with comparatively little in such a sensitive time,” Parly told reporters Tuesday after meetings with Esper, White House national security adviser Robert O’Brien and other senior officials.

Parly is the latest of a steady stream of French officials to visit in recent weeks, as the Pentagon moves toward a decision as early as the end of next month.

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Europe countries that are part of a NATO training mission in Iraq, and which deployed troops as part of the U.S.-led coalition against Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, depend on the United States for key “enablers” that allow them to operate, including intelligence and logistical support.

The United States has by far the largest presence in both countries, although Trump has cut the U.S. presence in Syria by about half, down to around 1,000 troops. In Iraq, U.S. deployments have increased, from about 5,000, to provide greater security after the Jan. 3 U.S. drone strike there that killed Iranian Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani. European troops number in the hundreds.

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Air Force faces critical gaps in aerial refueling

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

Boeing’s failure to deliver its new KC-46 Pegasus aerial refuelers on schedule could force the military to rely either on private defense contractors or keep using aging tankers to meet its needs, the U.S. Transportation Command’s top officer said.

“We’ve got to figure out a way to mitigate the delayed fielding of the KC-46,” Gen. Stephen Lyons said Tuesday, while speaking at the Atlantic Council in Washington.

The Air Force has already planned on the retirement of a select number of its KC-135 Stratotankers and KC-10 Extenders, even as the Boeing-run KC-46 program struggles to develop and field new tankers, he said.

“If we’re not careful we’re going to see a real dip, ... in taskable tails for the joint force,” Lyons said, referring to the number of mission-ready tankers. He said he was working with the Air Force to fill in the gaps, “so we have continuous coverage of the joint force while we work through the issues ... with the KC-46.”

The Air Force has been seeking to replace its Eisenhower-era KC-135 since the early 2000s. The service has 153 of the refuelers in active-duty units and another 243 in the National Guard and Reserve, the Air Force says on its website.

In 2008, the service selected a modified tanker version of the Airbus A330 commercial airliner over Boeing’s offer of a 767 derivative. But that decision was nullified after Boeing complained about the selection process, and in 2011 Boeing won the renewed tender for a tanker capable of midflight refueling of fighter planes and other aircraft.

However, Boeing has failed to provide the tankers since winning the $44 billion project. The company had promised to deliver 18 combat-ready aircraft by 2017, but Air Force leaders said this fall that likely won’t happen for several more years.

In the meantime, the Air Force has taken delivery of 30 tankers for training purposes, while Boeing continues to fix some of the aircraft’s problems, including an issue with the cameras used to guide the extended 59-foot boom into a fuel receptacle on the receiving plane.

Some solutions to the tanker shortfall include the “ability to retain some number of legacy tails,” Lyons said, referring to the KC-135s and KC-10s.

Leasing commercial tankers would “take pressure off the force,” he said, but limits include not being able to employ private tankers in a combat environment.

“I think it’s worth a look,” he said.

Aerial refueling is “the most stressed” capability across Transportation Command, Lyons said.

Stars and Stripes reporter Slobodan Lekic contributed to this report.
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USFK warns of worker furloughs if no deal reached

By Kim Gamel and Yoo Kyong Chang Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — Facing a defense cost-sharing deal that the United States warned South Korean employees Wednesday that they may be placed on unpaid leave in April if Seoul and Washington are unable to reach a new defense cost-sharing deal.

The 60-day notice being sent to nearly 9,000 employees upper the ante as the allies remain deadlocked over U.S. demands for a sharp increase in South Korea’s contribution nearly a month after the previous contract known as the Special Measures Agreement expired.

U.S. Forces Korea said the notice was required by law and would be sent to all employees by Friday.

“United States Forces Korea began providing Korean National employees today with a 60-day notice of a potential administrative furlough that could occur on April 1, 2020, absent an agreed upon defense cost-sharing deal,” USFK said in a statement.

The issue doesn’t affect non-Korean employees, USFK said.

A woman asks a question during a town hall meeting about possible furloughs for South Korean workers at Camp Humphreys, South Korea, on Wednesday.

“Burden-sharing doesn’t come just down to dollars and cents obviously,” he said, noting South Korea’s large defense budget.

“This is part of our message to our State Department colleagues that as you’re approaching these negotiations — and everyone wants equitable burden-sharing — some consideration just needs to be given about maintaining the health of that alliance, as we go forward.”

Many South Koreans expressed anger and frustration during a packed town hall-style meeting to discuss the furlough notice at a chapel on Camp Humphreys, the largest U.S. overseas base and home to USFK headquarters.

“The only people who will be hurt at a Korean National employee,” Geddhar Hwang, a 59-year-old vehicle maintenance worker, said in an interview. He’s worried officials insisted that employees would return to work as soon as possible.

Furloughing employees would make it impossible for them to go to work as an employee,” he added.

“We are all facing an unprecedented situation and endeavor to minimize impacts wherever possible. This kind of transparency and bring clarity to the situation that we are facing.”

A affected employees would be placed on a “nonpaid and nonduty” status and would not receive back pay, he said, adding that they won’t be eligible for unemployment benefits.

USFK already has implemented “austerity measures” including a freeze on local hiring and overtime pay for groups that use funds appropriated by Congress.

Officials warned residents that they will likely face delays in non-emergency services with reduced hours at the post office and after-hours maintenance work.

Six rounds of talks since last year failed to reach a consensus, although negotiators from both sides say they have narrowed their differences. And United States has softened its initial demand for nearly $5 billion per year, a fivefold increase.

“USFK cannot meet its Korean employee payroll with the lapse of the SMA,” said Paul Stuart, a deputy to the garrison commander, adding that a final decision was expected by the end of next week.

“Nothing we talk about today is a value judgment on you or your work as an employee,” he added.

“We are all facing an unprecedented situation and endeavor to minimize impacts wherever possible,” he said.

“Nothing we talk about today is a value judgment on you or your work as an employee,” he added. These are the terms of our agreement beyond logistical and salary support to include money for American rotational troops and other off- peninsula costs.

Consequences

Garrison officials said they couldn’t discuss the SMA talks, which are being held at a higher level.

“We don’t affect that down here. We deal with the consequences of it,” Stuart said.

South Korea has helped support U.S. troops under the agreement since 1991, with most of the funds used for administrative and logistical support as well as construction projects and the bulk of South Korean salaries.

USFK sent a notice in October to the Korean Employees Union, saying it may need to place local workers on unpaid leave beginning in April if an agreement isn’t reached.

The two sides also missed the deadline last year but eventually reached a retroactive deal for South Korea to pay some $920 million for 2019.

But that was a stopgap measure because it lasted for only one year.

Previous deals had lasted five years.

Negotiators have gone public this year with their demands and complaints while anti-American activists held several rallies, including a group that briefly broke into the ambassador’s residence.

South Korean Defense Minister Jeong Kyeong-doo stressed the importance of an “ironclad combined defense posture” during a separate meeting with Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy and Army Pacific Commander Gen. Paul LaCamera on Wednesday in Seoul, according to the ministry.

49ers’ Kittle to play in Super Bowl in honor of fallen soldier

By J.P. Lawrence Stars and Stripes

A player in this year’s Super Bowl will be playing in honor of a soldier killed in Iraq, as part of a program that gave the soldier’s family a trip to the big game.

George Kittle, star tight end for the San Francisco 49ers, met with the family of Sgt. Mick LaMar last Friday ahead of Sunday’s clash with the Kansas City Chiefs in Super Bowl LIV in Miami.

The visit and the tickets to the Super Bowl left Josie LaMar, Mick’s widow, “over-the-moon excited,” she said, as her husband was a big 49ers fan.

“We’re looking forward to enjoying the game and saying, ‘George Kittle is playing for our dad, my husband,’” Josie LaMar said in a phone call Tuesday.

“My husband’s name being honored, his service to our country is being honored, and who better than from George Kittle from his favorite team.”

Josie LaMar said she will be rooting for the 49ers with her son Nicolas, 16, who was only 7 when his father died in 2011.

Kittle and other players teamed up with a program by the financial services company USAA and organizations such as Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors to bring service members, veterans and families to the Super Bowl.

“I have a lot of family in the military so it’s something that I just respect, and the sacrifice that they give is the ultimate sacrifice,” Kittle told ESPN. “So, if I can ever give back and make a family’s day or just make them smile a little bit, then I’ve just done a little part in their lives.”

NFL players Christian McCaffrey, Von Miller, Deshaun Watson, Jarvis Landry, James Conner, Ryan Tannehill and coach Ron Rivera also participated in the program.

George Reilly, a Marine veteran who served in Vietnam, will be also be at the game with his son as part of the program, although he’ll be rooting for the Chiefs.

“Never even saw it as a far-off fantasy, to be able to go to Super Bowl,” Reilly, a former New York City detective, said on the phone, “but here I am.”

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Gallagher attacks SEALs who testified against him

**By Andrew Dyer**  
The San Diego Union-Tribune

SAN DIEGO — A retired Navy SEAL whose war crimes trial made international news has launched a video attack on former SEAL teammates who accused him of murder and shooting civilians, and who testified against him at his San Diego court-martial in June.

In a three-minute video posted to his Facebook page and Instagram account on Monday, retired Chief Petty Officer Edward Gallagher, 40, referred to some members of his former platoon as “cowards” and highlighted names, photos and — for those still on active duty — their duty status and current units, something former SEALs say places those men — and the Navy’s mission — in jeopardy.

Gallagher was accused of several war crimes by some of his platoon subordinates, including that he shot civilians and stabbed a wounded Islamic State fighter in the neck, killing him, while in Iraq in 2017. He pleaded not guilty and was acquitted of most charges, but was convicted of posing for a photo with an Islamic State fighter’s corpse, a crime for which the jury reduced his rank.

The case and its fallout received extensive media coverage, especially among conservative outlets such as Fox News, where national personalities lobbied then-President Donald Trump on-air for months to intervene on Gallagher’s behalf.

Trump intervened in the case several times, including ordering Gallagher released from confinement before trial and sparing Gallagher’s rank post-conviction.

Two former SEALs who served in Gallagher’s platoon in Iraq during his 2017 deployment spoke to the Union-Tribune on Monday about the video. Neither testified at Gallagher’s court-martial.

David Shaw, a former petty officer 1st class, said that he questioned Gallagher’s decision to publicize information that’s normally kept quiet for operational security.

“Attempting to call attention to (those SEALs’) status in the way it’s been done does not serve the mission or the interests of the Navy,” Shaw said when reached by phone. “To attempt to out (their) status raises questions about the decision to do so.”

Shaw also defended his former teammates and their decisions to testify against their chief.

“Each and every one of the guys who came forward were performers of the highest caliber and people of the highest reputations within the platoon,” Shaw said. “(One) was selected to serve at the most premier institution at Naval Special Warfare, and that tells you everything you need to know about his performance and speaks volumes about his character.”

Another former SEAL from the platoon said that publicizing the faces of active-duty SEALs — including one assigned to the elite Development Group, or SEAL Team 6 — could put the lives of men and their families in danger.

The former SEAL asked the San Diego Union-Tribune not to use his name, but said that because SEALs have been the targets of threats from terrorist organizations, exposing their names, faces and current units was an egregious breach of norms within the community.

The video appears to be a trailer for an unspecificed future project. Tim Parlatore, one of Gallagher’s attorneys, declined to say on Monday what that project is or when it will be published.

Navy Capt. Tamara Lawrence, a spokeswoman for Naval Special Warfare Command in San Diego, said in a statement late Monday that the Navy, as a practice, does not identify active-duty SEALs.

“As a matter of policy we do not identify our special operators,” Lawrence said in an email. “We don’t identify them by name, or by any other manner, due to the nature of their work, for the protection of their teammates and their families, and to protect on-going and future missions.”

The video includes clips from Naval Criminal Investigative Service interviews of Gallagher’s attorneys which the men told investigators about the alleged actions of their chief.

Portions of those interviews were published by The New York Times on its FX show “The Weekly” in Special operations forces.

Gallagher says in the video that he’s fighting to clear his name, despite being found not guilty of the worst charges against him.

“For my entire adult life, I’ve had the honor and privilege of fighting for this country and your freedom,” Gallagher says in the beginning of the video. “Even though I went to trial and exposed all the lies that were said about me by certain cowards in my platoon and found not guilty, there are those to this day who refuse to accept that fact. “The fight to clear my name is not over,” Gallagher says.

Parlatore told the Union-Tribune on Monday that the video project will include more footage from NCIS interviews and from Gallagher’s 2017 deployment.

“What’s coming is the truth,” Parlatore said, adding that the video project was a direct response to The Weekly.

Parlatore dismissed concerns about highlighting the names and faces of active-duty SEALs.

“There’s nothing in that video that’s not already public,” he said.

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**Lapses: Review also cites leadership, accountability issues**

**FROM FRONT PAGE**

Gallagher’s platoon in Iraq was ordered home amid charges of drinking and an anonymous breach of norms within the team, though I went to trial and exposed all the lies that were said about me by certain cowards in my platoon and found not guilty, there are those to this day who refuse to accept that fact.

“The fight to clear my name is not over,” Gallagher says.

Parlatore told the Union-Tribune on Monday that the video project will include more footage from NCIS interviews and from Gallagher’s 2017 deployment.

“What’s coming is the truth,” Parlatore said, adding that the video project was a direct response to The Weekly.

Parlatore dismissed concerns about highlighting the names and faces of active-duty SEALs.

“There’s nothing in that video that’s not already public,” he said.

**STARS AND STRIPES**

Chief Petty Officer Edward Gallagher celebrates with his wife, Andrea, in July at Naval Base San Diego after being acquitted of premeditated murder.

**SANDY Huffaker, TNS/ Getty Images**

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**H&R BLOCK**
Americans who arrived Wednesday will be monitored by CDC in LA

By Corey Dickstein
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — An airplane carrying more than 200 Americans evacuated from Wuhan, China, the center of a rapidly spreading deadly virus that has quickly spread across the globe, landed Wednesday at an Air Force reserve base in Southern California, Pentagon officials said.

The Defense Department will provide the evacuees temporary housing on March Air Reserve Base in Riverside, Calif., said Alyssa Farah, the Pentagon’s press secretary. Officials from the Health and Human Services Department will be at the base to observe and care for the evacuees, a largely State Department personnel and their family members.

“HHS is responsible for all care of the evacuees, and DoD personnel will not be directly in contact with the evacuees and evacuees will not have access to any base location other than their assigned housing,” Farah said in a statement.

Wuhan is the center of the coronavirus outbreak that has killed at least 132 people and infected some 5,300 in China, The Associated Press reported Wednesday. The city, and several others nearby, have been locked down by the Chinese government in an attempt to slow the spread of the virus. Cases of the coronavirus have been confirmed in more than a dozen other countries, including at least five in the United States, according to the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

It was not immediately clear Wednesday why March ARB was chosen to house the individuals arriving from Wuhan. They were initially expected to land at Ontario International Airport, about 30 miles away, U.S. officials said.

March, a former active-duty Air Force base, is home to the 452nd Air Mobility Wing, the Air Force Reserve’s largest air mobility wing, which moves troops and equipment across the globe and provide refueling operations. The base also houses other units from the Air Force Reserve, the Army, Navy and Marine reserves, and the Air National Guard, according to the Air Force. It is home to F-15 fighter jets, C-17 cargo jets and KC-135 air tankers, and it boasts a 13,300-foot runway, among the longest runways in the United States.

Farah said DoD officials deter the AP the presence of the evacuees would not make any impact to military missions on the base. She said if any individuals show symptoms of the disease, they adopted procedures to securely transport them to a local civilian hospital.

The military has been monitoring the spread of the virus for more than a week in case it needs to take any measures to protect its personnel and their families, officials said.

“DOD will work closely with our interagency partners and continue to monitor the situation,” Farah said. “The department’s primary responsibility at this time is the safety of our force, our families, and our base communities.”

The CDC said Wednesday that the evacuees were screened before they left Wuhan, monitored throughout the entire flight by medical professionals, screened again in Anchorage, Alaska, where they landed earlier Wednesday to refuel, and were evaluated once they arrived at March ARB. They will continue to be monitored at the base for an unspecified amount of time, according to a CDC statement.

“Our primary objective is to facilitate the safe return of these Americans while protecting the public’s health,” the statement said.

Medical officials in Alaska told The Associated Press that most of the evacuees had displayed symptoms of the coronavirus during refueling, which include fever, coughing and in severe cases can cause shortness of breath or pneumonia.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

A visitor is screened by health officials as part of measures to prevent coronavirus infection at the Wuhan Tianhe International Airport, in Wuhan in central China's Hubei province Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2020.

© AP Photo/Wang Gang

Virus: Source of new illness still unknown

FROM FRONT PAGE

were confirmed Wednesday, a family of four from Wuhan that was visiting the United Arab Emirates. Officials world announced they were cutting flights to China, and Hong Kong was suspending rail travel to and from the mainland at midnight.

The number of cases in China rose 1,459 from the previous day, a smaller increase than the 1,771 new cases reported Tuesday. Australia and Singapore were among those reporting new cases, as the number outside China topped 70. The vast majority are people who came from Wuhan.

Australia, New Zealand and Britain were among the latest countries to announce they are planning evacuations.

British Airways said it was suspending all flights to and from mainland China after the U.K. government warned against unnecessary travel to the country. The airline has daily flights from London to Shanghai and Beijing.

British health secretary Matt Hancock tweeted that “anyone who returns from Wuhan will be safely isolated for 14 days, with all necessary medical attention.” The measures are a step up from those during the devastating 2014-16 Ebola outbreak, when returning travelers from West Africa were asked to monitor themselves for symptoms.

Mark Woolhouse, a professor of infectious disease epidemiology at the University of Edinburgh, said the steps are justified to prevent the introduction of the virus and its spread.

“There’s always a balance between the draconian measures of public health and what people might want to do, and obviously it’s regrettable if people who turn out not to have the virus are quarantined unnecessarily,” he said.

In China’s Hubei province, 17 cities including Wuhan have been locked down, trapping more than 50 million people in the most far-reaching disease control measures imposed.

The new virus is from the coronavirus family, which includes those that can cause the common cold as well as more serious illnesses.

The source of the new virus and the full extent of its spread are still unknown. However, the World Health Organization said most cases reported to date “have been milder, with around 20% of those infected experiencing severe illness.”

Scientists expect many crucial questions about the virus’ behavior will be answered in the coming weeks as the outbreak evolves and it becomes clearer how people are infected.

More airlines drop flights to China

Associated Press

BANGKOK — British Airways halted all flights to China and American Airlines suspended flights to and from Shanghai and Beijing as efforts to contain a new and deadly virus intensifies.

The coronavirus has now infected more people in China than were sickened in the country by the SARS outbreak in 2002-2003.

The British and U.S. carriers on Wednesday joined several Asian carriers that are either suspending or significantly cutting back service there as fears spread about the broader economic impact of the virus outbreak. Hotels, airlines, casinos and cruise operators are among the industries suffering the most immediate repercussions, especially in countries close to China.

BA said it was immediately suspending all flights to and from mainland China after the U.K. government warned against unnecessary travel to the country amid a virus outbreak.

The airline operates daily flights from London’s Heathrow Airport to Shanghai and Beijing. It took the measure a day after Britain’s Foreign Office updated its travel advice on China, warning against “all but essential travel” to the mainland, not including Hong Kong and Macao.

American Airlines said Wednesday it will suspend flights between Los Angeles and Shanghai and Beijing from Feb. 9 through March 27. The airline cited “the significant decline in demand for travel to and from China.”

China has cut off access to the central city of Wuhan, epicenter of the outbreak, and 16 other cities to prevent people from leaving and spreading the virus further. That has trapped more than 50 million people in the most far-reaching disease control measures ever imposed. The outbreak has infected more than 6,000 on the mainland and abroad.

Online flight notice boards for the Beijing and Shanghai airports showed numerous cancellations for both domestic and foreign airlines.

More airline suspensions expected

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WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's impeachment trial is shifting to questions from senators, a pivotal juncture as Republicans lack the votes to block witnesses and face a potential setback in their bid to acquit him in his second trial.

Democrats believe former national security adviser John Bolton can confirm Trump abused power of office.

"I don't know that the manuscript would make any difference in the outcome of the trial," said Roy Blunt, of Missouri, a member of GOP leadership. Some Republicans said they simply don't trust Bolton's word. Sen. Rand Paul, of Kentucky, called Bolton "dishonest and manipulative" and said to make money off his time at the White house.

But John Kelly, Trump's former White House chief of staff, told an audience in Sarasota, Fla., that he believes Bolton. White House officials privately acknowledge that they are essentially powerless to block the book's publication but could sue after the fact if they believe it violated the confidentiality agreement Bolton signed.

Trump and his lawyers have argued repeatedly that Democrats are using impeachment to try to undo the results of the last presidential election and drive Trump from office.

Democrats, meanwhile, say Trump's refusal to allow administration officials to testify only reinforces that the White House is hiding evidence. The White House has had Bolton's manuscript for about a month, according to a letter from Bolton's attorney.

Sen. Joe Manchin, of West Virginia, said he'd wouldn't have a problem hearing from Hunter Biden, who was on the board of a Ukrainian gas company, in the impeachment trial of President Donald Trump, but he doubts it will happen.

"I don't think the manuscript would make any difference in the outcome of the trial," said Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., who was on the board of the Ukrainian gas company when his father was vice president.

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Boeing continues to see losses from 737 Max grounding

By Aaron Gregg
The Washington Post

Boeing reached new financial lows in 2019 as the 737 Max — once the cash cow of the aircraft giant — sits grounded worldwide due to two deadly crashes. The company announced Wednesday, a 37 percent drop from the fourth quarter of 2018.

The losses stem from the continued worldwide grounding of Boeing’s Max jets and a production halt this year in the wake of two fatal crashes. The company’s stock price has lost about 13 percent of its value over the past year at a time when the market has surged.

Once a cash-generating machine that was the envy of its competitors and a darling of Wall Street, Boeing has been forced to borrow billions of dollars to cover the cost of building the aircraft it can’t deliver to customers. CNN Business reported Monday Boeing has secured more than $2 billion in loans from lenders to provide cash for operations over the next two years.

It has been forced to compensate airlines for the cost of flight cancellations, taking a $5.6 billion charge in the third-quarter earnings report. The company has had a tumultuous year, leading to the ouster of its two highest-ranking executives.

Boeing’s new CEO, David Calhoun, will be under intense pressure to navigate the company back to financial health.

The 737 Max has been out of commission for more than 10 months as regulators remain unconvinced it is safe to fly. It was grounded in mid-March when the Federal Aviation Administration recognized similarities in a pair of deadly plane crashes in Indonesia and Ethiopia, both of them involving new 737 Max jets, that killed 346 people.

Boeing later admitted that a new flight control program, interacting with bad data from the wind sensors, pushed the jets into an uncontrollable nose dive.

The FAA has made the jets’ return to the sky contingent on a set of software and display changes designed to prevent the same problems from occurring again. But the timeline for approval is unclear.

Throughout most of 2019, Boeing continued churning out new planes under the assumption regulations would soon clear them to fly. However, in December, the company announced it would indefinitely halt production of the embattled jets.

That production halt has rippled throughout the company’s supply chain, resulting in about 2,800 layoffs atSpirit AeroSystems in Wichita. About half of Spirit’s revenue comes from supplying parts to the Max.

In addition to scrutiny over the Max jets, the company has faced criticism over its culture.

A set of internal messages between Boeing employees were recently disclosed to congressional investigators. The messages, made public last month as part of a long-running investigation into how the Max was designed and certified, could further damage the company’s relationship with the flying public.

One Boeing employee said in 2018: “I still haven’t been forgiven by god for the covering up I did last year.” Another said: “This is what these regulators get when they try and get in the way.” And in 2017, long before either of the two crashes, a Boeing employee wrote: “This airplane is designed to prevent the same uncontrollable nose dive.

While Boeing is creating jobs and killing terrorists, the congressional Democrats are obsessed with demented hoaxes, crazy witch hunts and deranged partisan crusades. That’s all they know how to do,” Trump said.

Trump’s visit to Democratic-leaning New Jersey generated a boisterous audience that lined the streets to greet him. He called Van Drew on stage, saying, “Jeff had the guts to defy the left-wing fanatics in his own party.”

Trump highlighted the economic growth, noting that 7 million jobs have been created since his election. He also continued to boast of the U.S. drone strike in Baghdad that killed Iran’s most powerful general, Qassem Soleimani, on Jan. 3.

“We stopped him cold, yet Washington Democrats like crazy Bernie Sanders and nervous Nancy Pelosi, they opposed our actions to save American lives. They opposed it,” Trump asserted to a roar of boos.

Peleo and other Democrats have questioned the strategy behind Trump’s order to kill Iran’s general, which was made without prior approval from Congress. They pointed to potential consequences of heightened tensions that could endanger U.S. troops and lead to war with Iran.

On Tuesday, Trump sought to push past the ongoing impeachment trial. Earlier in the day, he released a Middle East peace plan that was immediately met with skepticism that it would go anywhere without Palestinian buy-in.

Minutes after he unveiled the plan, the president’s impeachment trial resumed as his legal team wrapped up its defense presentation.

While Trump’s lawyers argued that the Democrats were trying to undo the last election, the president’s focus Tuesday night was on the next one. For his first rally since the Senate trial began, Trump was traveling not to a 2020 battleground state but instead to the Democratic stronghold of New Jersey.

The setting was stigmatic for Trump: A Jersey shore town where people crowded overnight to get a spot in line for the rally.

Van Drew said Trump has helped restore the military and protect the economy. “Do we want to keep it that way?” he asked the crowd.

Apple holiday season tops projections as iPhone bounces back

By Michael Liedtke
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Apple is still reaping huge profits from the iPhone while mining more money-making opportunities from the growing popularity of its smartwatch, digital services and wireless earbuds.

That combination produced a banner holiday season for a company whose fortunes appeared to be sliding just a year ago amid declining sales for the iPhone, its marquee product for the past decade.

Apple’s fiscal first-quarter results, released Tuesday, provided the latest proof that the fears hanging over the consumer electronics icon might have been unfounded.

Apple’s profit and revenue for the October-December period topped analysts’ projections, providing another boost to a stock that has more than doubled in less than 13 months. The shares surged more than 1% to $322.14 in extended trading after the numbers came out. That’s up from $142 in January 2019 after Apple warned that consumers weren’t buying as many new iPhones as they once were. Especially in China, the company’s biggest market outside the U.S. and Europe. China is also where Apple makes most of its iPhones and several other products.

A deadly viral outbreak in China, which has curtailed travel and threatens the world economy, looms as a potential concern for Apple. But investors for now are focusing on what looks like an even more prosperous road ahead for a company that turned a $55 billion profit in its past fiscal year.

In a conference call Tuesday, CEO Tim Cook said the coronavi- rous outbreak has already caused some of Apple’s suppliers in China to delay reopening their factories closed for the Lunar New Year holiday from the end of this month until Feb. 10. And some stores in China selling Apple products already have temporarily closed or reduced their operating hours because fewer customers are shopping as virus worries escalate.

“The situation is emerging and we’re still gathering lots of data points and monitoring it very closely,” Cook said.

Trump shores up support for newest GOP congressman in NJ

By Jonathan Lemire
Associated Press

WILWOODS, N.J. — Moving on several fronts toward shoring up support for his re-election bid, President Donald Trump capped off a busy Tuesday by heaping praise on the newest Republican member of Congress and savaging Democrats he said are engaged in “demented hoaxes” like his impeachment trial.

On the day his legal team wrapped up its opening arguments on the Senate floor, Trump spoke to an enthusiastic audience in New Jersey in support of Rep. Jeff Van Drew, who recently switched from the Democratic Party to the GOP after breaking ranks with his colleagues.

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Van Drew said Trump has helped restore the military and protect the economy. “Do we want to keep it that way?” he asked the crowd.
LAS CRUCES — A former state lawmaker’s emu that was missing since Thanksgiving is safely back at its home near Las Cruces.

Former state Rep. Brad Cates learned his emu had resurfaced thanks to a barrage of images people shared on social media, the Las Cruces Sun-News reported.

Pictures of the emu around a subdivision near Cates’ home prompted inquiries from a state livestock inspector and a game warden. Later that day, Cates, with some help, corralled the 150-pound emu named “Hey You!”

Customers get photos from closed studio

LAS VEGAS — Dozens of customers at a defunct Las Vegas portrait studio are now in possession of their pictures.

KSNV-TV reported that the property manager for the space formerly occupied by Portrait Innovations opened it up for people to claim their orders.

More than 100 customers were left hanging when the national portrait studio chain shut its doors without warning.

The company informed the landlord that it was declaring bankruptcy and simply left without telling anyone, said Penny Mendlovic, the leasing agent.

Dozens of portraits on print and canvas were left behind.

Police probe removed sign that caused crash

DE BRIDGEVILLE — Delaware State Police are investigating whether somebody intentionally threw a street sign into the middle of a road shortly before a driver crashed while trying to avoid it. A truck driver was heading east when he approached an intersection and found a stop sign post lying in the middle of the street, Delaware State Police said.

The driver, a 32-year-old man from Seafood, swerved to avoid the sign but ran into a pole and flipped over, according to the state police. He was taken to a hospital with serious injuries, the agency said.

The stop sign appeared to have been pulled out of its location and intentionally thrown into the road before the driver crashed.

Stolen tow truck hits van, parked cars, 1 hurt

PA PHILADELPHIA — A person driving a stolen tow truck struck a van and several parked cars on a Philadelphia street, leaving the van driver hospitalized.

The person driving the tow truck fled the scene on foot after the crash. It wasn’t clear where the tow truck had been stolen from or why it was taken.

The tow truck initially hit the van and then struck four parked cars, authorities said, sending one vehicle up onto the front lawn of a house. The driver then continued driving for another block before abandoning the vehicle in the roadway and running from the scene.

‘Geriatric’ male harbor seal, 35, dies at zoo

WASHINGTON — A male harbor seal considered geriatric for his species died at the Smithsonian’s National Zoo.

Luke, 35, was humanely euthanized, according to a statement from the zoo. The zoo said he outlived the median life expectancy for his species, which is 25 years in the wild and 30 years in human care.

Luke had been experiencing ocular discomfort and had trouble orienting himself recently, according to the zoo’s statement.

Animal care staff decided to euthanize him after using several methods to treat his symptoms, including antibiotics, weekly ear flushes and various eye drops.

Vets museum to open exhibit about Bob Hope

COLUMBUS — An exhibit exploring comedian Bob Hope’s major tours and travels during World War II is set to open this month at the National Veterans Memorial and Museum in Ohio.

“So Ready for Laughter: The Legacy of Bob Hope” opens Friday and runs through April 17 at the museum in Columbus. The exhibit features nearly 50 artifacts and an original 11-minute documentary. This marks its first stop outside The National WWII Museum in New Orleans, where it originated.

Brewery looks to sun to power beer making

ATHENS — A Georgia brewery has installed solar panels and aims to reduce its energy consumption by 30%.

Athens-based Terrapin Beer Co. recently cut the ribbon on the project, The Athens Banner-Herald reported.

The project involves 720 solar panels on Terrapin’s roof and on its parking lots sunshades.

The solar panel array is part of Terrapin’s larger sustainability campaign called Terraprint. Deeds Creative and Cherry Street Renewable Energy are two of the company’s partners on the overall effort.

There’s now a TV screen in the tap room that shows customers how much solar energy is being used at any given time.

Police search for suspects in coat heist

NEW YORK — Police in New York City were searching for six men they said broke into an upscale boutique and stole 52 coats valued at $42,000.

The NYPD said that the heist occurred at the Mackage clothing store on Mercer Street in Tribeca.

Police said one of the suspects used a large object to break the glass front door of the shop before the six men went in and grabbed the coats.

Couple says dog fought coyote in backyard

DES MOINES — State wildlife officials urged central Iowa residents to be vigilant in safeguarding pets after a Des Moines couple reported their German shepherd mix dog was attacked by a coyote.

The couple reported the attack happened less than a mile from the Drake University campus after they let their dog, Sildi, out in the backyard around dusk, television station KCCI reported.

Within minutes, they heard what sounded like a dog fight, rushed outside and found Sildi and the coyote fighting. The coyote ran away when the couple came outside. The dog was treated for bite wounds to its face and head.

Angler snags apparent live grenade in river

GARY — A man fishing from a northwestern Indiana bridge reeled in an apparent live grenade, prompting a road closure until the device was removed by a bomb squad.

A Gary police officer who was called to the Little Calumet River bridge to investigate learned that a man who had been fishing from the bridge pulled up what appeared to be a live grenade, The (Northwest Indiana) Times reported.

The bomb squad took possession of the grenade without incident, said Gary Police Lt. Dawn Westfield.

Authorities were investigating how and when the grenade ended up in the river.
San Francisco faces federal corruption charges

By Jane Har and Juliet Williams
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A top San Francisco public official and go-to bureaucrat to mayors over two decades was charged with public corruption on Tuesday, upending City Hall as elected leaders scrambled to reassure the public that bribery and kickbacks would not be tolerated.

The complaint unsealed against San Francisco Public Works Director Mohammed Nuru and restaurant owner Nick Bovis on Tuesday in San Francisco.

Nuru was initially arrested in late January and agreed to cooperate with officials, but violated his agreement to not discuss the case and was re-arrested, Anderson said.

Nuru could face 25 years in prison, while Bovis could face 20 years.

The allegations say that the two participated in a scheme "to defraud the public of its right to the honest services of a public official through bribery or kickbacks" in violation of their duty.

San Francisco Mayor London Breed said that Nuru was placed on administrative leave on Monday.

"Mr. Nuru welcomes and looks forward to addressing these charges in court," he said.

As the top official since 2012 in charge of a city public works operating budget of $1.4 billion, Nuru is tasked with cleaning up San Francisco streets, which critics note remain cluttered with debris, trash and used needles amid a homelessness crisis.

Police officer charged with murder in death of handcuffed man

Associated Press

TEMPLE HILLS, Md. — A Maryland police officer who fatally shot a handcuffed man in the front seat of a police cruiser will face a murder charge, the police chief said on Tuesday.

Prince George's County Police Chief Hank Stawinski said during a news conference that he asked his special investigations response team to file multiple charges, including a second-degree murder count, against Cpl. Michael Owen, Jr., a 10-year veteran of the force.

Owen was also charged with voluntary and involuntary manslaughter, first-degree assault and use of a firearm in the commission of a crime of violence. He was arrested on Tuesday, department spokeswoman Jennifer Donelan said.

The victim was identified as William Howard Green, 43, of Washington. Authorities did not reveal Green's race, citing department policy.

Stawinski called the announcement the most difficult of his tenure as police chief.

"I am unable to come to our community this evening and provide you with a reasonable explanation for the events that occurred last night," the chief told reporters.

"I concluded that what happened last night is a crime."

The deadly shooting occurred on Monday night inside the cruiser after Prince George's County police officers responded to reports that a driver had struck multiple vehicles near the Temple Hills community, department spokeswoman Christina Cotterman told news outlets during an earlier news conference.

When officers located the driver, they smelled PCP and believed that the man was under the influence, Cotterman said.

Stawinski later said, however, that PCP did not appear to have been involved. He also could not corroborate a witness' account of a struggle in the cruiser.

The officer got into the driver's seat after the suspect was taken into custody and placed in the front passenger seat, which conforms with the department's policy.

"A short time later, for reasons that are now at the center of the investigation, Green was shot seven times by the officer's duty weapon," according to a news release issued Tuesday night.

After the shooting, Owen and another officer removed Green from the cruiser and provided medical aid, but Green died at a hospital a short time later.

The shooting wasn't caught on body-camera video because the officer didn't have one, Cotterman said.

Owen had been placed on administrative leave prior to the announcement that charges would be filed against him.

Prince George's County State's Attorney, Asha Braveboy, said in a statement on Tuesday that her office will conduct a "thorough and independent investigation."

"We will seek truth, and will vigorously pursue justice in a way that is fair and responsible," Braveboy said, according to The Washington Post. "Once we have received all information and completed our own investigation and analysis, I assure you that my office will be transparent and accountable to the public about our findings and how we will move forward."
Syrian troops secure town opposition held since ’12

Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria — Syrian government forces captured one of the largest and most strategic rebel-held towns in the country’s northwest, the Syrian military and opposition activists said Wednesday, part of a Russian-backed military assault that has displaced hundreds of thousands of people fleeing to safer areas.

The town of Maaret al-Noman in Idlib province, which had been in rebel hands since 2012, sits on the highway linking Damascus with Aleppo and is considered critical to President Bashar Assad’s forces. The town is now largely empty as a result of intense bombardment in recent weeks.

Its capture is the latest in a series of military triumphs for Assad. His forces have retaken control of most of the country from rebels, largely because of blanket air support from Russia, which helped turn the tide in the nearly nine-year civil war.

Syria’s nearly nine-year conflict has left more than 400,000 people dead and displaced half of Syria’s population, including more than 5 million who are refugees, mostly in neighboring countries.

An exception to the Syrian government’s success in retaking territory from rebel groups has been Idlib province near the Turkish border, which is held by opposition fighters and is dominated by al-Qaida-linked militants. Syrian government forces have been on the offensive for more than a month in Idlib province, the last rebel stronghold in the country. But in recent days, the government captured more than a dozen villages in the area as the insurgents’ defenses began to crumble.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition war monitor, said insurgents withdrew from the town late Tuesday. Syrian troops had left a road west of the town open apparently to give a chance for insurgents to pull out and to avoid street battles inside the town.

But the push appears to have angered Turkey, which backs the opposition and has for years coordinated with Russia, a main backer of Assad, during the conflict. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan expressed frustration with Moscow over its failure to halt Syrian government attacks in Idlib.

Erdogan said Russia is not loyal to agreements reached with Turkey over the situation in Idlib, including a cease-fire that collapsed earlier this month. He said he is in contact with the Russians to tell them to stop the bombing “in Idlib or our patience will run out.”

536 stranded anglers rescued

Associated Press

MOSCOW — In a nearly seven-hour operation, Russia’s emergency services rescued 536 ice fishermen after they got stranded on a giant ice floe that broke off the island of Sakhalin in eastern Siberia, officials said.

Around 60 more people were able to get back onto the shore on their own Tuesday evening, emergency officials said.

Footage of the incident showed groups of people using smaller pieces of ice as rafts and trying to row to the Russian coast on them as the giant ice floe with the stranded fishermen slowly drifted further away from the land.

According to some of the Russian fishermen, by the time they had been rescued the frigid water rift between the ice floe and the coast was already 660 feet wide.

It’s the third time in a week that emergency services in the Sakhalin region had to rescue ice fishermen stuck on drifting glacial masses. On Jan. 22, around 300 people got stranded on an ice floe and on Sunday 600 others did.

Local authorities blamed the fishermen for ignoring safety warnings and going ice fishing despite the danger of being stranded on ice floes.

WORLD
Bad Bunny releases song paying tribute to Kobe Bryant

From wire reports

Bad Bunny is paying his respects to the late basketball legend Kobe Bryant the way he knows best: through music.

The singer released the song “6 Rings” on Monday in honor of the late Lakers star, who died in a helicopter crash over the weekend along with his 13-year-old daughter Gianna and seven others.

The two-minute track, sung in Spanish, is an ode to Bryant and his daughter on stage, while outside, thousands of fans gathered to mourn the death of Bryant and Gianna.

From the Los Angeles Times:

Bad Bunny’s new song, “6 Rings,” is a tribute to athlete Kobe Bryant.

Grammy Awards on Sunday in Los Angeles, Lizzo, Alicia Keys, John Legend and DJ Khaled paid their respects to the player and his daughter on stage, while outside, thousands of fans gathered to mourn the death of Bryant and Gianna.

Last original member of Kingston Trio dead at 85

Bob Shane, the last surviving original member of the popular folk group the Kingston Trio and the lead singer on its million-selling ballad “Tom Dooley” and many other hits, has died. He was 85.

Shane, Nick Reynolds and Dave Guard were performers in the San Francisco club circuit in the 1950s and broke through nationally in 1958 with their eponymous debut album, which featured “Tom Dooley,” an old standard inspired by a Confederate veteran’s conviction for murder.

The song reached No. 1 on the Billboard pop charts, won a Grammy for best country and western song (no folk category existed) and helped launch the so-called folk revival, with other artists including Joan Baez, Peter, Paul and Mary, and, eventually, Bob Dylan.

Other news

- Miley Cyrus and Liam Hemsworth are officially single. Court records show that a Los Angeles judge on Tuesday finalized the divorce that ended the brief marriage of the 27-year-old American pop star and the 30-year-old Australian actor. The couple separated and Hemsworth filed for divorce in August, about eight months after he and Cyrus married. Documents cited irreconcilable differences as the reason.

- Mac Miller’s “Circles,” debut album at No. 3 for the week on the Billboard Top 200, became his sixth Top 10 album. The posthumous release, billed by his family as his “sixth and final studio album,” entered the charts behind the surprise Eminem release “Music to Be Murdered By” and Halsey’s “Manic.” Miller topped the chart in 2011 with his debut album “Blue Slide Park,” and landed in the top four with each of the four albums before “Circles.”
Thursday, January 30, 2020

Eugene Sheffer Crossword

ACROSS
1 Sleeve end
5 Soap unit
8 Con job
12 Milky gem
13 Foot rub
14 Chorus syllables
15 Author Ferber
16 24 hours
17 Fashion
18 Soldier’s ID
20 Nest setting
22 Wed
26 Origami need
30 Conk out
31 Country singer Jackson
32 Rx writers
33 Lion’s pride?
34 Dijon denial
35 Corp. boss
36 Does the job
37 Wed
40 Injure
41 Haystack find
45 — cheese dressing
47 “You’ve got mail” co.
49 Satan’s purchase
50 Disposition
51 Roth svgs. plan
52 Albacore, e.g.
53 Diminish

DOWN
1 Not single-sex
2 High hairstyle
3 Sharp tooth
4 Level
5 Police ID
6 Bond rating
7 Beats
8 Streamlined
9 Its days are numbered
10 100%
11 Fannie —
12 100%
13 100%
14 Bamboo —
15 100%
16 100%
17 100%
18 100%
19 100%
20 100%
21 100%
22 100%
23 100%
24 100%

54 Morning moisture
55 Exam format

25 Casual tops
26 Hunger reminder
27 Lotion additive
28 Temple to all the gods
32 Disney’s Ariel, for one
33 Gallo winery
36 Tennie
38 “All in the Family” spinoff
39 Acquired relative
40 Gloomy
41 Moth variety
43 Israeli airline
44 Upscale auto
45 Upscale auto
46 Mauna —
47 Raw mineral

Answer to Previous Puzzle

1 30

CRYPTOQUIP

T S S P I Z Z  Y I H J T T W  D R Z C W R
T D  T Z S  D C Z A B  V C J F  I W
R E J H R A R Z G  V R C H S
J F R Y I J.

Yesterday’s Cryptoquip: The playful sea mammal had a yen for succulent fruit, so it polished off some otter-melon.

Today’s Cryptoquip Clue: S equals D
Securing Syrian oil is still a terrible idea

BY JERROD A. LARER
Special to Stars and Stripes

U.S. and Russian troops in north-eastern Syria are disrupting one another’s moves along a major highway according to the Syrian Observatory of Human Rights. “I think the Russians are always testing us,” said Air Force Maj. Gen. Alexus G. Grynkewich after Turkish media reported that a confrontation had occurred. “There was a standoff earlier this month, as U.S. forces blocked access to an oil field. Regular inspections have encountered both U.S. and Russian forces, and they’ve been able to avoid mistakes that could turn things violent.”

However, tensions between the two sides are growing, perfectly illustrating why the U.S. should have exited Syria a long time ago. President Donald Trump’s decision to keep a handful of troops in Syria protect the oil fields needlessly puts American forces in harm’s way. Before an accident puts U.S. and Russian forces in direct conflict with a nuclear superpower, the U.S. should finally pack up and leave Syria.

There’s no vital U.S. security interest at stake in Syria. The Pentagon has concluded that it has no role in safeguarding its oil fields. The Pentagon has stressed that the U.S. mission there is to protect the oil fields and profit from the sale of the oil. But after getting hammered in their fight against multiple parties, including the U.S. Russia, Iran and Syria, the remnants of ISIS are in no position to maintain and profit off of oil fields in northeast Syria.

After the fall of the physical ISIS caliphate, the terrorist group was decimated but the stragglers adhering to the radical ideology today are a far smaller group that once terrorized the world. They do not possess the infrastructure needed to push the oil to market. On top of that, ISIS is itself a rickety force, with competing factions like Iran, Turkey, the Kurds and Russia—who seek their elimination. These local and regional actors are more than capable and willing to take over the oil fields without the need to protect a permanent military presence in the region.

U.S. policy in Syria represents a counterproductive “regime change”-style approach, one that is no longer sustainable. It’s time for the U.S. to exit Syria. However, it’s not a foregone conclusion that every country will agree. This is a risk the U.S. should not take.

Syria is a weak, poor state in a region that is becoming less strategically significant by the day. Sticking around makes ending the civil war more difficult and puts a very limited number of U.S. troops in harm’s way. It’s time for the U.S. to stop trying to make us here at home any safer. It’s time to take the U.S. presence in Syria off autopilot. It’s time to come home.

Additional contact:

OMBSMAN
Ernie Gates

The Stars and Stripes ombudsman protects the free flow of news and information, reporting any attempts by the military or other authorities to undermine the independence of the ombudsman. The ombudsman also responds to concerns and questions from readers, and monitors coverage for fairness, accuracy, timeliness and balance. The ombudsman welcomes letters and opinions and can be contacted by email at ombudsman@stripes.com, or by phone at 202.886.0003.
Tuesday’s transactions

BASEBALL
Boston Red Sox — Agreed to terms with LF Mitchell Santet on a one-year, contract.

HOUSTON ASTROS — Named Ryan Engels development coach of Round Rock (PCL); appointed Gregori Pettitt manager, Jason Kazanis hitting coach, Matt Faggie hitting coach, Matt Bouchard bench coach, Jordan Gardner extended hitting coach of Peoria (Midwest League), Koby Gemmel minor league hitting coach and Tanner Lubick development coach of Tri-City (NYP); named Luis Reynoso hitting coach of the DSL Astros; Jeff Lewis minor league hitting coach of the DSL Astros; Adam Choplick from Southern Maryland to rehab coordinator; and Terrence Kennell from the DSL Astros; Jeff Lewis minor league hitting coach of the DSL Astros; Luis Reynoso hitting coach of the DSL Astros; Jeff Lewis minor league hitting coach of the DSL Astros; Adam Choplick from Southern Maryland to rehab coordinator.

National League
AZR Diamondbacks — Placed RHP Jordyn Adams on the 7-day IL.

CHICAGO CUBS — Agreed to terms with LF Steven Souza on a one-year contract.

Cincinnati Reds — Designated OF Jose Siri for assignment.

MIAMI HEAT — Signed RHPs Rob Knoop and Rob Rasmussen to minor league contracts.

NEW YORK METS — Signed RHPs Ed Rauch and Ed Basran to minor league contracts.

WASHINGTON NATIONALS — Agreed to terms with RHPs Colten Brewer and Kellen Maroney to minor league contracts.

BASKETBALL
Women’s Basketball Coaches Association
New York Liberty — Named Shelley Pettry associate head coach.

New England Rugby League
Owen Park — Named Captain Pete Johnston as captain.

National Hockey League
Detroit Red Wings — Reassigned D Filip Larsson from Grand Rapids (AHL) to Toledo (AHL).

Pittsburgh Penguins — Agreed to terms with F subtraction."
No Antetokounmpo, no worry, as Bucks’ Middleton scores 51

Career-high night leads team past Wizards

Associated Press

MIAMI — Khris Middleton scored a career-high 51 points in the absence of injured teammate Giannis Antetokounmpo, leading the Milwaukee Bucks to a 151-131 victory over the Washington Wizards on Tuesday night.

Milwaukee (41-6) scored a franchise-record 88 points in the first half, finished with its highest total of the season and won its ninth straight game despite the absence of Antetokounmpo, who sat out with a right shoulder injury.

Bradley Beal led Washington (15-31) with 47 points, his second straight 40-point game and sixth of the season.

Middleton, hoping to be chosen an All-Star reserve for the second straight year on Thursday, helped the Bucks hold off a second-half Wizards rally. Middleton also had 10 rebounds and six assists.

Milwaukee (41-6) scored a franchise-record 88 points in the first half, finished with its highest total of the season and won its ninth straight game despite the absence of Antetokounmpo, who sat out with a right shoulder injury.

Jaylen Brown scored 25 points for the Celtics, and Kemba Walker added 16 points and eight assists. Daniel Theis finished with 10 points and 11 rebounds as Boston led nearly the entire way in a win at Miami.

Zion Williamson scored 14 points and nine rebounds in 30 minutes, his most as a pro.

Middleton added nine rebounds and 10 points and 11 rebounds.

Williamson added nine rebounds and 10 points and 11 rebounds.

Department of silence to honor Bryant and the other eight passengers who died in the helicopter crash . Embiid was granted permission from Hall of Fame player Kobe Bryant.

That was the turning point in my life,” Embiid said. “It was watching Kobe. After watching, I just wanted to be like him.”

Embiid had averaged 23.4 points and 12.3 rebounds in 31 games this season. Against the Warriors, Embiid played with a splint on his hand that didn’t affect him when he buried a three that sent the Sixers into halftime with a 59-54 lead.

“For his first game back, it was pretty impressive,” coach Brett Brown said.

Philadelphia’s Ben Simmons had “Mamba Forever” and “RIP Gigi” (for Bryant’s daughter, among the nine killed in the crash) on each sneaker and scored 17 points.

The Sixers were the latest team to honor Bryant in a pregame ceremony. Bryant led suburban Lower Merion High School to the Class AAAA state title at Hersheypark Arena in 1996, the school’s first since 1943. His framed No. 33 Aces jersey was displayed at midcourt and the Sixers held a 33-second moment of silence to honor Bryant and the other eight passengers who died in the helicopter crash.

The 10-win Warriors gave the Sixers a serious challenge. The Sixers were 12-point favorites but D’Angelo Russell, who scored a team-high 28 points, kept the Warriors within single digits for most of the fourth quarter.

Al Horford buried the sixties center Joel Embiid up for a shot against Golden State Warriors forward Omari Spellman. Embiid wearing No. 24 for the first time, had 24 points in a 115-104 win in Philadelphia.

By Dan Gelston

PHILADELPHIA — Joel Em- biid had to do it like the kids on the playground, a yell of “Kobe!” as he shot a fadeaway in the one- night-only No. 24 jersey he wore for his basketball idol.

Embiid buried the bucket to give him a tidy 24 points — and yes, eight defensive rebounds — in a somber night in Philly dedicated to Kobe Bryant.

Embiid returned early from a hand injury, in part to help the Sixers in their push for a better playoff seed in the East, but also because he wanted to honor Bry- ant. Embiid was a teen in Africa when he first got hooked on bas- ketball watching Bryant in the 2010 NBA Finals. Bryant’s style and swagger inspired the 7-foot Embiid to give up volleyball and convince his father he had a new direction in his promising ath- letic career.

“I was watching Kobe. After watching, I just wanted to be like him.”

Embiid dons No. 24, scores 24 in victory

Buried a three and 12.3 rebounds in 31 games this season. Against the Warriors, Embiid played with a splint on his hand that didn’t affect him when he buried a three that sent the Sixers into halftime with a 59-54 lead.

Embiid, the first Sixer to be voted to the Class AAAA state title

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League teams continue their tributes to Kobe

By Tim Reynolds

MIAMI — In Philadelphia, Joel Embiid paid tribute to Kobe Bryant by wearing one of his jerseys.

Brooklyn's Spencer Dinwiddie and Orlando's Terrence Ross are showing their respect by no longer doing so. Boston's Kemba Walker is considering such a change.

And coaches around the league left their snazzy leather shoes in the office Tuesday night, wearing Bryant's signature sneakers instead.

The games are going on — except in Los Angeles, for a couple more days anyway. So, too, is the grief after the fiery helicopter crash in Southern California on Sunday that took the life of Bryant, his daughter Gianna and seven others. And the tributes are continuing as well, such as the separate decisions by Dinwiddie and Ross to no longer wear the No. 8 that Bryant donned at the start of his NBA career.

"We often search for meaning in numbers," Dinwiddie tweeted.

Dinwiddie will now wear No. 26. Ross is going back to No. 31. The moves, evidently, are simply their way of saying Bryant's numbers — he wore No. 8 and No. 24 for the Los Angeles Lakers — should be retired. Walker said part of the reason why he isn't sure if he'll give up the No. 8 is that the Celtics have a large amount of already-retired numbers and that would limit his options.

Many coaches, including Miami's Erik Spoelstra and Boston's Brad Stevens and their staffs for the Heat-Celtics game in Miami, wore Bryant's sneakers.

Spoelstra, a father of two young sons, said he plans on buying the Kobe sneakers for them to wear in a few years.

"I'm going to tell them the story of Kobe Bryant when they are old enough to understand," Spoelstra said.

Jayson Tatum saw all those qualities in Bryant. He considered him a friend, mentor, idol, hero.

"Everybody knows how much he meant to me," Tatum said, his voice barely rising above a whisper, his eyes looking down nearly the whole time. "From somebody I could talk to and help me out with a bunch of things on and off the court. It's been a tough couple of days."

In #MeToo era, Bryant, other athletes often still get a pass

By Eddie Pells

DENVER — Folded conveniently into the narratives about his "complicated past" was the detail about Kobe Bryant that could have wrecked him. It was a rape allegation by a 19-year-old employee of a Colorado hotel. It happened in 2003. Some argued that making that life-altering detail a mere footnote to the stories detailing Bryant's life and unexpected death was the human thing to do on such an awful day. Others felt it was another example of an icon being given a pass of sorts because he was a successful athlete.

While dozens of high-profile figures — including senators, movie producers, news anchors — have seen their careers vanquished by allegations of sex abuse and domestic violence, high-profile sports figures have skated past similar accusations at a far more frequent rate.

"We look up to them to win games," said Miki Turner, a longtime journalist who is now an assistant professor at the University of Oregon, "but we don't really scrutinize their values as closely as we might for politicians or news anchors. I think there's just a different line there."

Here's a quick list from the recent past: relief pitcher Roberto Osuna, soccer star Cristiano Ronaldo, running back Ezekiel Elliott, quarterbacks Jameis Winston and Ben Roethlisberger, Sacramento Kings coach Luke Walton and Super Bowl 54-bound receiver Tyreek Hill of the Chiefs.

All are among the sports stars who have had stomach-churning allegations leveled against them but have skirted major repercussions — from their leagues, the teams, law enforcement in large part, in the court of public opinion.

"There's something about the instant gratification of having a game that night versus, say, being an actor and taking a year to make a movie," said Courtney Cox, a former ESPN staffer who teaches a class on the #MeToo era at the University of Oregon. "If (sports stars are) treated differently, part of that is the instant way they're visible, and the way they are able to rectify and rebrand themselves" by the final buzzer of the next game.

In other words, winning makes up for a lot.

The case of troubled wide receiver Antonio Brown could be instructive. He was released by the Patriots earlier this season when rape allegations surfaced. The NFL is investigating the accusations, and until that is over we will know what apparatus teams might have to sign him.

Among the central questions in the Bryant story, and how his life is being remembered, is whether the pass he received in the obituaries and tributes was more about the passage of time than any bias toward him, or athletes in general.

It's been 17 years since the allegations.

A good section of Bryant's fan base either wasn't born, or was barely able to understand the news, when reports of his case first surfaced.

And yet, here we are in the #MeToo era, in which everyone's past is easily re-searched on Google, and any transgression or poorly thought-out meme on social media is not only discoverable, but has the potential to change the narrative for any career.

Allegations of sex abuse are leveled with greater frequency against the rich and famous, more of the accusers, but certainly not all, are increasingly treated with greater respect, and their complaints are being taken more seriously.

"I don't know if something like that happened now, even with Kobe Bryant, if people would be as forgiving in this current climate," Turner said. But Bryant was a sports celebrity, not a movie, television or media star, and that reality almost certainly impacts the calculus, regardless of era.

"Sometimes, it's OK to not have a right answer," Cox said. "We're all very morally righteous with our Twitter fingers. The idea of the black-and-whiteness of it all. But it's not that easy. We grieve family members who had problematic pasts. But with athletes, it seems like we need a neat, tidy story even when it's not always there."

For celebrities who aren't athletes — don't play a game every other night, aren't as frequently accessible for the media and therefore don't have as many chances to shift the conversation — the story lines aren't as malleable.

The torrent of allegations against movie producer Harvey Weinstein in 2017 marked a turning point in the #MeToo era. Hollywood and, to some extent, Washington, took the brunt of the blame. Bill Cosby, Kevin Spacey, Louis C.K., Al Franken, Matt Lauer, Charlie Rose and Placido Domingo are a small part of a list of more than 250 public figures in entertainment, politics and media who have been accused of wrongdoing since the start of #MeToo.

The majority have seen their careers either stymied or completely brought to a halt.

And while nobody sheds any tears about that, there's an argument to be made that the law and the public have meted out a different kind of judgment for them than for their brethren in sports.

Bryant's case was litigated both in the media and the courtroom. But the case never went to trial, and though sponsors cut ties with Bryant in the aftermath, his losses didn't last long. Bryant walked away from his charges — chastened and clearly a changed man. He issued an apology through his attorney and later settled a civil case brought by his accuser.

He missed a few games while attending hearings in the case, but the best of his career, and his life, was still to come.

In the 17 years that followed, Bryant became a father of four girls and a vocal champion of women in sports. He became even better known for his alpha-male psyche and his uncompromising work ethic. To some, he is the GOAT — Greatest Of All Time — in a sport that triggers plenty of discussion about that title.

But that's not the only part of his legacy that's open for debate.
House supports new rules for horse racing

The federal government would be firmly in charge of horse racing in the United States under legislation that now has the support of a majority of House of Representatives members as lawmakers and racing advocates warned Congress urgent action is needed to boost the sport’s sagging image.

The sport is currently governed by the American Horse Racing Industry Council. Under the House of Representatives measure, racehorse owners would be required to provide their horses with drugs by a federal plan, which is in turn controlled by the United States Anti-Doping Agency. Drugs would be disallowed in the 24 hours leading up to a race.

SOURCES: Cubs’ Bryant loses grievance

All-Star third baseman Kris Bryant has lost his service-time grievance against the Chicago Cubs, two people with direct knowledge of the situation said.

The decision provides some clarity for the Cubs after the situation had hovered over the team throughout its quiet offseason.

Bryant could be traded now that his status has been settled, or the team could keep the 26-year-old until he’s eligible for free agency after the 2021 season.

Source: Baker, Astros close to deal

Dusty Baker is working to finalize an agreement to become manager of the Houston Astros, a person with knowledge of the negotiations told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity. The 70-year-old Baker becomes the oldest manager in the big leagues. He takes over from AJ Hinch, who was fired Jan. 13 just hours after he was suspended by Major League Baseball for his role in Houston’s cheating image.

Hall of Fame DE Doleman dies after bout with cancer

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Hall of Fame defensive end Chris Doleman, who became one of the NFL’s most feared pass rushers during his 12 seasons in the league, has died. He was 58.

The Minnesota Vikings and Pro Football Hall of Fame president and CEO David Baker offered their condolences in separate statements late Tuesday night.

The Vikings and the Hall of Fame both expressed their condolences on Tuesday after learning of Doleman’s death, but he had surgery in January 2018 to remove a brain tumor and Baker said he passed away “after a prolonged and courageous battle against cancer.”

“I had the honor of getting to know him not only as a great football player but an outstanding human being,” Baker said. “One of the honors of my life was witnessing Chris get baptized in the Jordan River during a Hall of Fame trip to Israel. The legacy of Chris Doleman will live forever in Canton, Ohio, for generations to come, to learn from how he lived a life of courage and character.”

Doleman, an Indianapolis native, was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2012.

US women shut out Haiti

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Christen Press scored the opening goal off a shoeless assist from Lynn Williams and the United States beat Haiti 4-0 on Tuesday in its opening match of the CONCACAF Women’s Olympic Qualifying tournament.

The U.S., which won the Women’s World Cup last summer, extended its unbeaten streak to 24 straight games dating back to a loss to France a year ago.

The goal by Press came in the second minute on a cross from Williams, who had lost her cleat in her run up the field. It was the 52nd international goal of her career.

Williams added a goal in the 67th minute on a header off a corner kick from Megan Rapinoe. Lindsey Horan came on the bench and scored on her first touch in the 73rd minute and Carli Lloyd capped it off with a stoppage-time goal.

It was the first competitive match for U.S. coach Vlatko Andonovski, who took over when Jill Ellis stepped down last year.

Lloyd made her 15th start in Olympic qualifying, passing Abby Wambach for most in team history.

Rapinoe, the reigning Ballon d’Or winner and FIFA World Player of the Year, played off the bench in the second half.

An announced crowd of 4,363 attended the game, which was hit in the first half by a sudden downpour at BBVA Compass Stadium.

The United States looked rusty at the start and Haiti appeared to tie the game with a goal in the 18th minute, but it was called back. Then the top-ranked Americans simply wore down their opponents in the second half.

Eight teams are playing in the tournament, with the title match set for Feb. 9 in Carson, Calif. The top two finishers will earn berths to the Tokyo Games this summer.

The United States and Haiti were in the same group with Costa Rica and Panama, who played in the early match Tuesday. Costa Rica won 6-1.

The U.S. has qualified for every Olympics since women’s soccer was introduced in 1996.

Six teams have already made the field for Tokyo: Japan, Brazil, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Sweden and New Zealand.

Coronavirus affects international sports

Associated Press

GENEVA — Amid growing concern at the spread of a new virus outbreak in China, international sports have been postponed and Olympic qualifying tournaments are being taken elsewhere.

The decision on Tuesday by the International Hockey Federation (FIH) to postpone Pro League games in China follows qualifiers for the Tokyo Olympics scheduled in February in soccer, basketball and boxing being moved outside of China.

The Chinese women’s field hockey team was due to host Belgium for two games on Feb. 9-10 in Changzhou. Those were postponed on Tuesday by the FIH citing “current uncertainties around the outbreak of the coronavirus in China.”

The Lausanne, Switzerland-based governing body said it was “following the recommendations of the World Health Organization,” ahead of future matches. China is scheduled to host Australia for two games on March 14-15.

Olympic qualifying events scheduled in China in February to help decide entries for the Tokyo Games have also been affected in recent days.

Women’s soccer and women’s basketball games were moved from Wuhan, at the center of the outbreak, to Nanjing. Boxing tournaments for the Asia and Oceania regions will be held in Jordan.

The first World Cup races testing the mountain venue for alpine skiing at the 2022 Beijing Olympics are also at risk. A man’s downhill is scheduled for Feb. 15 at Yanqing to start a two-race weekend.

China is also due to host track and field’s indoor world championships from March 13-15 in Nanjing.

Tokyo Olympic organizers put out a generic statement on Tuesday and offered no details.

“Countermeasures against infectious diseases constitute an important part of our plans to host a safe and secure games,” the statement said. It said Tokyo would “carefully monitor any incidence of infectious diseases and we will review any countermeasures that may be necessary with all relevant organizations.”

More than 100 deaths in China have been reported because of the disease, including the first in Australia. More than 4,500 cases reported in China include almost 1,000 people in serious condition, national health authorities said.

The coronavirus seems to spread less easily than SARS or influenza. Most cases involve family members and health workers who had contact with patients.
No. 1 Nadal upset

Thiem shows Rafa-like game in victory; Halep, Muguruza advance in straight sets

By HOWARD FENDRICH
Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Outplayed at his own brand of physical tennis for much of the match, Rafael Nadal finally claimed a set to try to start a comeback against Dominic Thiem.

Nadal marked the moment by hopping in a crouch at the baseline and vigorously pumping his right arm four times.

Soon, though, he was back in trouble. And eventually, his bid to tie Roger Federer’s record of 20 Grand Slam titles and vigorously pumping his energy ... (and) determination. So I made a mistake.

Just an unbelievable match. Like, epic,” Thiem said. “A very high level from both of us.”

Thiem reached his fifth major semifinal anywhere by over coming a terrible start Wednesday and getting a fourth man-advantage tiebreaker in four games this period. Jordan Binnington stopped seven shots.

Thiem’s 7-6 (3), 7-6 (4), 4-6, 7-6 (2) victory over the top-seeded Nadal lasted 4 hours, 10 minutes (seedings in parentheses):

MEN’S SINGLES

Quarterfinals
Alexander Zverev (8), Germany, def. Novak Djokovic (1), Serbia, 7-6 (6), 6-3, 6-4, 7-6.

Women’s Singles
Simona Halep (4), Romania, def. Anett Kontaveit (8), Estonia, 6-1, 6-1.
Garbine Muguruza, Spain, def. Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova (30), Russia, 7-5, 6-3.

Women’s Doubles
Barbara Krejcikova and Katerina Siniakova (1), Czech Republic, and Timea Babos (2), Hungary, def. Latisha Chan and Hao-Ching Chan (17), Taiwan, 7-5, 6-2.

Mixed Doubles
Bethanie Mattek-Sands, United States, and Jamie Murray, Britain, def. Zheng Saisai, China, and Joran Vliegen, Belgium, 6-3, 6-4.

victories.

Nadal reacts during his quarterfinal match against Dominic Thiem at the Australian Open on Wednesday. Thiem upset the No. 1 seed, winning each of his three sets in a tiebreaker.

Tennis: Australian Open

AUSTRALIAN OPEN/NHL

The Blues’ Ryan O’Reilly, right, celebrates with David Perron after scoring in the shootout against the Calgary Flames on Tuesday.

NHL roundup

Perron helps Blues beat Flames in SO

Associated Press

CALGARY, Alberta — For David Perron, Calgary has become his home away from home.

Up against a team he’s always thrived against and in a building he enjoys playing in, Perron had a goal and an assist in regulation and added a shootout goal to help the St. Louis Blues beat the Calgary Flames 5-4 on Tuesday night.

Perron has 17 goals in 39 career games against the Flames, including 12 goals in 20 games at the Scotiabank Saddledome.

“I like the old barn, maybe. I don’t know,” said Perron, when asked about his success historically against Calgary. “I always have fun coming up to Canada and playing here, even when I was back with the Oilers.”

Alex Steen, Jadon Schwartz and Zach Sanford also scored in regulation for the Blues, who got their first win in the tiebreaker in four games this period. Jordan Binnington stopped seven shots.

Sean Monahan scored twice, and Matthew Tkachuk and Mark Jankowski also had goals for the Flames.

The Flames were 3-0-3 on the power play during regulation, and got a fourth man-advantage in overtime, but squandered it.

Senators 5, Sabres 2: Mike Reilly scored the go-ahead goal 8:48 into the third period, and Ottawa snapped a seven-game road skid.

Tyler Ennis had a goal and assist and Jean-Gabriel Pageau also scored for the Senators, who had gone 0-4-3 on the road since a 5-2 win at Edmonton on Dec. 4.

Sabres captain Jack Eichel scored his career-best 29th of the season and Sam Reinhart also scored for Buffalo.

NHL scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Central Division

GP W L OT Pts GF GA
Boston 51 31 12 8 70 164 141
Tampa Bay 51 29 17 5 63 158 125
Florida 49 29 15 5 67 137 140
Toronto 49 27 17 5 59 151 147
Buffalo 49 25 20 4 54 148 147

Atlantic Division

GP W L OT Pts GF GA
Winnipeg 51 25 22 4 54 152 160
Chicago 51 24 21 5 56 156 166
Minnesota 51 23 21 6 52 156 166
Detroit 49 22 20 7 43 130 175

Metropolitan Division

Washington 51 24 16 5 63 145 134
Pittsburgh 50 31 14 5 67 158 153
Philadelphia 50 27 17 6 60 158 150
New York Rangers 49 28 15 4 60 155 158

Western Conference

Central Division

GP W L OT Pts GF GA
St. Louis 51 31 12 8 70 164 141
Colorado 50 27 17 6 60 158 150
Dallas 50 26 18 5 57 150 145
Chicago 50 24 20 5 54 151 147
Edmonton 49 26 18 5 57 153 143

Pacific Division

GP W L OT Pts GF GA
Vancouver 50 30 14 6 60 165 155
Los Angeles 49 29 15 5 40 125 128
Anaheim 49 19 25 5 43 124 140
San Jose 49 25 19 5 44 126 140

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

Monday’s games

Washington 4, Montreal 2
Nashville 4, St. Louis 3, SO
New Jersey 5, Buffalo 2
St. Louis 4, Florida 2
Detroit 3, Tampa Bay 2
San Jose 4, Philadelphia 2

Tuesday’s games

Calgary 5, Edmonton 3
Dallas 3, Nashville 2
Montreal 4, Toronto 2
Chicago 5, Minnesota 2

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NHL roundups

The Blues’ Ryan O’Reilly, right, celebrates with David Perron after scoring in the shootout against the Calgary Flames on Tuesday.

Perry: “Win any tiebreak.”

The Blues’ Ryan O’Reilly, right, celebrates with David Perron after scoring in the shootout against the Calgary Flames on Tuesday.

Laviolette: “We had to get back to reality.”

The Blues’ Ryan O’Reilly, right, celebrates with David Perron after scoring in the shootout against the Calgary Flames on Tuesday.
Super Bowl returns to city for 11th time after 10-year hiatus

BY STEVEN WINE
Associated Press

MIAMI — It’s appropriate the Super Bowl to end droughts in Miami-bound.

The Kansas City Chiefs are playing in the game for the first time in 50 years against the San Francisco 49ers, who have a chance to win their first NFL title in 25 years. And the game is returning to Miami for the first time in a decade, lured back after a stadium renovation costing more than $550 million.

The Who wouldn’t recognize the stadium. They performed at halftime the last time the Super Bowl took place in Miami, in 2010.

Now the game is back for the 11th time, the most of any city, as the NFL concludes its centennial season on Feb. 2.

“We’re thrilled to be back in Miami,” said Peter O’Reilly, NFL executive vice president of league events and club business development. “It feels like the right way to finish this 100th season, because we’ve had so many great games here.”

Miami is where Vince Lombardi won his final NFL title in the second Super Bowl, and where Joe Namath delivered on his guarantee, and where Peyton Manning and Drew Brees won their first championship rings.

But the Dolphins’ stadium, which opened in 1987, needed a significant makeover to remain part of the Super Bowl rotation. Team owner Stephen Ross, who also owns the stadium, spent his own money on the multimillion-dollar renovation.

“The Super Bowl would not be here had it not been for massive private investment by the Dolphins,” said Rolando Aedo, an executive with the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau. “This was all about bringing the Super Bowl back to Miami.”

Ten years between Super Bowls matched the longest such stretch for Miami.

“It was painful,” said Rodney Barreto, chairman of the Miami Super Bowl Host Committee. “But all credit to Stephen Ross, who wrote the big check to modernize the stadium.”

Upgrades included new seats, suites, concessions, bathrooms, pedestrian bridges and tunnels, and a canopy to protect spectators from sun and rain.

New trees and plazas transformed the grounds into much more than a parking lot, and the complex is now home of the Miami Open tennis tournament. The stadium in the suburb of Miami Gardens also plays host to the college football championship, Miami Hurricanes games, international soccer matches and concerts.

“It’s maybe the only place in the world where you can see Patrick Mahomes, Serena Williams, Lionel Messi and Jay-Z all in the same venue,” said Tom Garfinkel, the Dolphins’ president and CEO.

While the stadium looks different from 10 years ago, when Brees and the Saints beat Manning and the Colts in the title game, the Super Bowl has changed, too.

Opening night will be Monday at Marlins Park, Super Bowl LIVE is a free fan event in downtown Miami’s Bayfront Park, and a three-night music festival is planned at the Heat’s arena. Those events didn’t exist a decade ago.

In addition, the Super Bowl Experience will turn the Miami Beach Convention Center into an amusement park.
Majhe mes relyes on more than his arm

Kansas City quarterback capable of beating foes with his legs, too

BY DAVE SKRETTA

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Patrick Mahomes was just trying to run out of bounds, not make the kind of shake-your-head, what-did-he-just-do play that will be shown on highlight reels for as long as the Kansas City Chiefs are in existence.

It was late in the second quarter of the AFC championship game, and the Chiefs were trailing Tennessee 17-14. Mahomes had already marched them nearly the length of the field, giving Kansas City at worst a chance for a tying field goal, when he scrambled from the pocket and headed toward the sideline with every intention of avoiding any kind of hit.

Then he made a defender miss and saw nobody in front of him, so he turned upfield instead. Mahomes barreled toward the goal line and right over one defender, then spun away from two more, and crashed into the end zone for the go-ahead score.

The momentum of his TD run spurred the Chiefs to two more fourth-quarter touchdowns and a 35-24 victory, and into their first Super Bowl in 50 years. And the Chiefs’ Patrick Mahomes runs for a touchdown as Tennessee Titans defensive tackle DaQuan Jones tries to bring him down during the first half of the AFC championship game.

Mahomes has led the Chiefs in rushing in each of their two seasons, setting career highs each year. But he also scrambled from the pocket and crashed into the end zone for a tying field goal, when he had already marched them near the goal line and right over one defender, then spun away from two more, and crashed into the end zone for the go-ahead score.

The unique thing about this group is that they don’t complain about anything,” Chiefs coach Andy Reid said. “They have the ultimate respect for him.”

The Chiefs’ Patrick Mahomes runs for a touchdown as Tennessee Titans defensive tackle DaQuan Jones.

“Catching Kelce?” He often wears outlandish, celebrity-styled outfits and his fashion sense is, to put it mildly, unique. But Kelce also exemplifies the almost uncanny way the Chiefs can flip a switch from silly to serious, as evidenced by his four consecutive 1,000-yard receiving seasons.

The Chiefs showed their appreciation for their coach — and the way he treats them — when they donned his trademark Hawaiian-style shirt for the trip to Miami. Other teams might deplane the week before the Super Bowl wearing suits and an all-business attitude, but the Chiefs bounced across the tarmac as if they were headed to Disney World.

“Coach is an awesome dude to play for. He’s 100 percent in this whole thing with us,” Chiefs left tackle Eric Fisher said. “A big part of why we’re here is we want to succeed for him. We put in so much work every day in making us successful, and making sure we do good. The least we can do is give him our all.”

Reid has a natural habit of deflecting such plaudits, so it’s no surprise that he pointed to the players themselves as the reason the Chiefs are such a tight-knit group.

“When you get them all together,” Reid said, “they cut it loose. But when they’re at practice, they’re all business.”

Andy Reid, Chiefs head coach on his players’ ability to separate work from fun

“When they need to cut it loose and have fun, they cut it loose. But when they’re at practice, they’re all business.”

Loose: Chiefs know when to put silliness aside

FROM BACK PAGE

The pickup games illustrate a few points about the Chiefs team preparing to play in its first Super Bowl in 50 years: It has a fierce competitive streak that permeates the entire roster, whether it’s on the field or off; the players genuinely like being around each other, even when they cut it back, and luckly I was able to hold on to the ball and get into the end zone.

It was the kind of improvisational play that could come in handy against the San Francisco 49ers’ stingy defense in the Super Bowl, and the kind of play that Mahomes might not have been able to make for much of this season.

Mahomes has led the Chiefs in rushing in each of their two seasons, setting career highs each year. The big run against the Titans was about half of his 53-yard total, and his total was just 16 yards shy of what bruising Titans running back Derrick Henry managed against the revamped Kansas City rush defense.

The Chiefs certainly would prefer their running backs — Damien Williams, Darrius Thompson and LeSean McCoy — do most of the heavy lifting in the ground game against San Francisco. But they aren’t about to curtail Mahomes’ competitive fire, even when it manifests itself in running the ball — and especially when it seems to be working.

“His understanding of space and understanding of coverage is incredible,” offensive tackle Mitchell Schwartz said. “Most guys look at a play, ‘Oh, that’s good. Let’s do that.’ But he under-stands coverages and, ‘We can do this because this guy is here and we can exploit him.’ It’s pretty awesome.”

Mahomes罢了 the ultimate respect for him,” Chiefs coach Andy Reid said of defenses, “and they’re doubting our guys. You’re not just putting a guy deep but two, and the defensive line is trying to sack him. So if he makes one guy miss, it’s over. He has all this running space. We’ve seen that the last couple weeks. For him to be able to see it, decipher it and go — it’s just part of the game for him. You don’t have to tell him anything that he doesn’t already know.”

Excuse maybe to slide. That has been a work in progress, and Mahomes has been much more savvy about getting down before taking a big hit. But he wasn’t going to do that in the AFC title game, when a trio of Titans were all that stood between him and the end zone after a 27-yard high-light-reel scramble.

“As I got to the sideline,” he recalled last week, “I realized I could cut up. I was running down the sideline and I knew we had two timeouts, so I thought well try to cut it back. I cut it back, and luckily I was able to hold on to the ball and get into the end zone.”

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“When you get them all together,” Reid said, “they all kind of feed off each other. That is kind of this age, this time of life, at this time, being 2020. This is how it has evolved since I came in the league. We were barely getting cell phones back then. Now, you give them a break so that they can be on the cell phone. It’s a different world.

“But they do have a great personality,” the coach added with a smile.
Loose locker-room culture helps spur Chiefs’ success

By Dave Skretta
Associated Press

If you’re planning to walk through the middle of the Kansas City Chiefs locker room between lunch and their usual afternoon practice, you might want to grab someone’s shoulder pads and helmet and brace for impact.

There’s a good chance you’ll find yourself in the middle of a pickup basketball game involving 300-pound linemen.

It’s a scene that plays out daily during the regular season, big bodies banging into each other as defensive tackles Chris Jones and Khalen Saunders try to post up under the hoop — hung just over the doorway leading into the showers. Usually, teammates will gather around them, playing the dual role of vocal fans and even more vocal referees.

“When you check in, it’s nonstop competition,” Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce explained this week. “Guys are always trying to play some type of game or compete in.

SEE LOOSE ON PAGE 23

Kansas City head coach Andy Reid is known for his trademark Hawaiian-style shirts.

Inside: Shanahan recalls first Super Bowl trip, Page 22

US women top Haiti in Olympic qualifier
Soccer, Page 20

Middleton scores 51 in Bucks’ victory
NBA, Page 18