

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Navy gets sub sponsored by first lady

Associated Press

An attack submarine that is sponsored by first lady Michelle Obama and will be named for her home state has been delivered to the U.S. Navy.

Submarine builder General Dynamics Electric Boat, based in Groton, Conn., delivered the submarine that will become the USS Illinois to the Navy on Saturday after nearly five and a half years of construction.

The first lady, who's from Chicago, will be involved in the life of the submarine and the lives of its sailors and their families.

The submarine will become the USS Illinois, SSN-786, and will begin its active service at a commissioning ceremony in Groton on Oct. 29.

It took thousands of shipyard employees in Connecticut, Rhode Island and Virginia, and submarine supply businesses nationwide, to build the \$2.7 billion submarine, the 13th member of the Virginia class.

There were no major issues during con-

struction, and the submarine performed "superbly" during recent tests at sea, said an Electric Boat vice president, Kenneth Blomstedt.

Capt. Michael Stevens, the Navy's Virginia-class program manager, said these attack submarines are needed to replace those that were built during the Cold War and are retiring.

"Every submarine counts," he said. "Every submarine is needed out there."

Electric Boat, which has been designing and building submarines since 1900, had until Aug. 31 to transfer ownership of the future USS Illinois to the Navy, per the contract. It's the ninth submarine in a row to be delivered to the Navy early and on budget, Stevens said.

The submarine has a redesigned bow with two large tubes to launch Tomahawk missiles, instead of 12 smaller tubes. The larger tubes were designed so the Navy also would have the flexibility to launch future weapons and unmanned vehicles,

Blomstedt said.

Cmdr. Jess Porter, the submarine's commanding officer, described the Illinois as a "stealthy weapon" that can influence adversaries in a way that makes the U.S. more secure. The crew of about 130 men will take the submarine to sea for additional testing to prove its capabilities, Porter said.

Construction began in March 2011. Modules were built in Rhode Island, at Electric Boat's manufacturing facility, and in Virginia, at Newport News Shipbuilding. The two shipyards build Virginia-class attack submarines under a teaming agreement and alternate the deliveries. The final assembly and testing took place at Electric Boat's headquarters in Groton.

Obama, who has made it a priority to support military families, broke a bottle of champagne across the submarine's hull to christen it last year. She has been invited to give the order to "bring the ship to life" at the commissioning ceremony.

Pentagon calls on Turkey, Syrian Kurds to stop fighting

Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — Turkey warned predominantly Kurdish Syrian fighters Monday to "immediately" withdraw east of the Euphrates River or face more strikes by Turkish forces who crossed the border last week in Ankara's incursion into Syria.

The Pentagon, meanwhile, called on NATO ally Turkey and the predominantly Kurdish U.S.-backed fighters aligned against the Islamic State group to stop fighting each other in northern Syria. In a written statement, Pentagon press secretary Peter Cook called the clashes south of the Euphrates River town of Jarabulus "unacceptable" and a source of "deep concern."

However, Kurdish-backed

forces later said they will only pull back south from their current positions in order not to put the lives of civilians in danger following attacks by Turkey-backed Syrian rebels.

The Kurdish announcement came hours after the warning by Turkey's Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu — and is unlikely to satisfy Ankara.

The sharp rhetoric — and the continued fighting — reflect the quagmire in northern Syria after Turkish tanks rolled across the border last week to help Syrian rebels seize the town of Jarabulus from the Islamic State group, a move that also was aimed at deterring further advances by the Kurdish-led forces.

The fighting now pits Turkey, a NATO ally, against the Syrian Kurdish force — a U.S.-backed

proxy that is the most effective ground force battling Islamic State militants in Syria's 5-year-old civil war. It leaves Washington in the tough spot of having to choose between allies, and is likely to divert resources from the fight against the Islamic State group.

Turkey's top diplomat spoke Monday as Syrian opposition groups reported that Turkish-backed Syrian rebels have captured more towns and villages in northern Syria as part of the operation, named "Euphrates Shield," now in its sixth day.

Cook said the U.S. doesn't support reported Turkish airstrikes and artillery shelling of U.S.-backed Syrian Kurdish fighters — or Kurdish attacks on Turkish troops — in areas where Islamic State fighters no longer are operating.

The United States and Turkey have called on the Syrian Kurdish People's Protection Units, or YPG, to pull back to the east side of the Euphrates, in accordance with U.S. assurances given to the Turks, and Cook said this pullback has "largely occurred."

"The YPG has to immediately cross east of the Euphrates River as they promised the United States and as they announced they would," Cavusoglu said. "If they don't, they will be a target."

This month, the Kurdish-led force known as the Syria Democratic Forces crossed the Euphrates and drove Islamic State militants out of Manbij, a key supply hub south of Jarabulus, following a costly 10-week campaign.

Advisers aim to boost Afghan combat readiness

Associated Press

CAMP SHAHEEN, Afghanistan — Ten days ago, Maj. Kabir Hamidzai was sitting in a Humvee within Taliban firing range, relaying information between an army troop commander and an attack helicopter pilot overhead.

A column of Afghan soldiers was moving toward an insurgent position; a squad of special operations forces was advancing from the other. Hamidzai's role was to guide two chopper pilots, protecting the troops and then striking the insurgents.

Back at this base in northeastern Afghanistan where he trains future combat air controllers, the officer described the recent operation. "Both convoys came together, the pilots fired their rockets, and 50 of the enemy were killed," he said with a satisfied nod.

It was a small victory in a war that is being fought on two fronts, sometimes pulling in two directions. One is the continu-

ing conflict between Taliban insurgents and Afghan forces.

The other is an ambitious effort by U.S. military officials and several NATO partners to create an independent, professional Afghan defense force.

"We are trying to build a plane while flying it," said Air Force Brig. Gen. David W. Hicks, senior commander for the U.S. Air Expeditionary Wing based in Kabul.

The United States has shipped eight A-29 fighter aircraft and 23 MD-530 attack helicopters to Afghanistan, while scores of Afghan pilots have undergone intensive training in the United States and Europe.

Since June, the first group of pilots have been deployed frequently to escort and defend Afghan troops, but their numbers seem impossibly small, and their entry into the war extremely late.

By all accounts, the pilots are highly motivated, but they also have had to adjust from the top-down military culture of the

Soviet Union, which built the Afghan defense forces in the 1980s, to the Western emphasis on making their own judgments in midair.

Decentralizing the military bureaucracy and teaching Afghan forces to survive without the Western largesse have been a constant challenge. Both encouraged dependence and fostered corruption, which is viewed by many as the largest obstacle to effective Afghan military performance.

Military supplies often vanish and end up in markets. Fuel coming by truck from Pakistan passes through many hands and can easily be siphoned off. Local commanders exaggerate how many bullets they have used and sell the replacements. Fighting units run out of supplies because they are not ordered in time.

U.S. and NATO advisers say the only way to ensure accountability and efficiency is by instilling modern administrative methods. But this is slowed by

low literacy rates among Afghan troops and by entrenched nepotistic practices.

For the Afghan infantry troops who bear the brunt of the war, just getting enough food, rest and ammunition can be a challenge on long deployments. American advisers are trying to set up a system in which soldiers rotate regularly through periods of fighting, resting and training, but the army has been stretched thin.

U.S. military officials said Afghan forces are doing better this year. Brig. Gen. Charles Cleveland, senior spokesman for the U.S. military mission, said the Taliban had won "some tactical victories," but that "overall, Afghan forces are generally on track with their campaign plans."

The attrition rate in the Afghan National Army is officially estimated at 15 percent to 20 percent a year, mostly from soldiers going home after their first contract ends; some Afghans say it is much higher.

Bells signal summer's end for military kids

JENNIFER H. SVAN

Stars and Stripes

Despite what the calendar may say, summer came to an unofficial end Monday morning for thousands of kids enrolled in the military's schools in Europe and the Pacific. For many, it was the first day back to school in more than 10 weeks.

In Germany, a withering, late-summer heat wave broke just in time: After three days of temperatures in the 90s, cooler weather prevailed overnight, giving students and their families a nearly perfect morning to embark on the new school year.

But not for students in Japan, where it was a wet day for many as Typhoon Lionrock, avoiding Tokyo en route to a closer brush with Misawa Air Base, barreled closer to the mainland.

Tara Landry, 11, a sixth-grader at Yokosuka Middle

School, was excited and nervous to be back in class.

"It was really good and really easy because there were a lot of teachers guiding you around," she said. "[The teachers] already know how nervous you are going to be, so they are really helpful. Being here means I am growing up and trying to be more mature."

At Ramstein Elementary School in Germany, many parents stood by their children's sides in front of the school, where some classes lined up behind their new teachers.

Among them was Kamarre Jennings, 7, who was waiting for second grade to start with his mother, Tech. Sgt. Twan Jennings, an Air Force communications specialist.

Kamarre was excited to have a new haircut for school, but he wouldn't say much about school until he was asked if he was

ready to do homework.

"No," he piped up.

"We talked about it last night," said his mother. "He said he's ready to meet new friends."

If Ramstein is anything like Aviano Elementary School in Italy, Kamarre might have a few days before tackling his first assignment.

"The first day of school is kind of keeping them happy ... going over rules and procedures and just finding out about them," said first grade teacher Connie Wellmer.

There were plenty of tears and lingering hugs exchanged between parents and their kids in school courtyards Monday.

"It's bittersweet," said Staff Sgt. Michael Self of Grafenwoehr, Germany's 615th Military Police Company. "It's good to see them go to school, but at the same time, they grow up too fast. You just want them to

stay babies forever."

So far, more than 70,000 students are enrolled for the current school year in 168 Department of Defense Education Activity schools.

Overseas enrollment is down by about 1,800 from about the same time last year, but school officials said they expected their numbers to go up as late enrollments trickle in. There are two fewer schools in Europe this year. Incirlik Elementary/High School shuttered suddenly in March after hundreds of military and civilian dependents were forced to evacuate bases in southern Turkey because of security concerns there.

Bitburg Elementary School in Germany also closed after decades of operation.

Stars and Stripes reporters Leon Cook, Michael Darnell, Kent Harris, Tyler Hlavac and Dan Stoutamire contributed to this report.

Outspent, Trump plans big ad buy

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump's campaign is making its biggest general election ad buy to date, with plans to spend upward of \$10 million on commercials airing during the next week or so.

The campaign is expecting to air a new ad, which paints rival Hillary Clinton as a job-killer, as soon as Monday in nine states: Ohio, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Florida, where the campaign already has been on the air, along with New Hampshire, Virginia, Iowa, Colorado and Nevada — all battleground states.

Trump, the Republican presidential nominee, so far has been badly outspent by his Democratic rival and groups supporting her. Since clinching her party's nomination in early June, Clinton has spent more than \$77 million on television and radio advertising, largely targeting voters in battleground states, according to Kantar Media's political ad tracker.

Trump finally hit the airwaves earlier this month with an ad focused on immigration, and so far has only spent about \$5 million.

Clinton has reserved about \$9.2 million in airtime this week.

The new investment comes amid signs the campaign sees that Trump's lagging poll numbers may be improving against Clinton's following a campaign reboot. Trump senior communications adviser Jason Miller said in a statement that the billionaire businessman's "positive message of economic opportunity is working and we see the national and battleground state polls all moving in the right direction."

False report of a shooter sparks panic at L.A. airport

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Los Angeles International Airport slowly returned to normal Monday after false reports of a shooter sent hundreds of panicked passengers racing onto streets or the tarmac and caused major flight delays on Sunday, authorities said.

Officers with rifles stormed terminals but uncovered no evidence of a gunman or shots fired. Loud noises spurred the reports, and police were still investigating their source, Los Angeles police spokesman Andy Neiman said.

It's similar to a false alarm that led to a panicked evacuation two weeks ago at Kennedy Airport in New York, when a boisterous celebration of the Olympics may have been misinterpreted as gunfire, authorities say.

The Los Angeles scare created a mess, with three terminals shut down, roads closed and flights held in the air and on the ground, but no reported injuries. About 280 flights were delayed, while at least 27 flights were diverted to other airports and two were canceled, airport spokeswoman Nancy Castles said.

Vehicle traffic was flowing again on the upper departure level during morning rush hour, but cars backed up on the lower arrival area, Castles said.

All terminals and roads into the airport

reopened by 11 p.m. Sunday, about two hours after the initial reports, officials said. Besides traffic, travelers faced a massive backup in security lines because those who fled had to be rescreened through security.

Airport officials said a person wearing a Zorro costume was detained during the chaos, but it wasn't yet clear whether the person had any connection to the evacuation.

"We were on the jetway, and someone starts pushing behind us," Jon Landis, a sales representative from Boston who was boarding a flight home, told The Associated Press. "One man was frantic, saying there was a shooter."

Police officers, including one with a shotgun, eventually led passengers out of the terminal, through a security gate and into a parking lot, where several hundred people waited. Ninety minutes after the scare, Landis said, he was still waiting for word on his flight.

Scott McDonald said he was getting off a plane in the middle of the chaos, and the crew told him to get back on. Looking out the window, he said he could see many evacuees gathered on the tarmac, a strange sight even for someone who travels constantly.

"I've never seen passengers, just normal people, on the tarmac anywhere in the United States," McDonald told Los Angeles news station KCAL-TV.

2 dead, 36 hurt after bus hits firetruck in Louisiana

The Associated Press

LAPLACE, La. — Louisiana State Police said a Honduran man who had entered the United States illegally was driving a bus carrying flood recovery workers that hit a firetruck on a highway, killing two people and injuring dozens.

Trooper Melissa Matey said the driver did not have a commercial license. She said the bus was carrying flood recovery workers Sunday from New Orleans to Baton Rouge.

Matey said the wreck killed Jermaine Starr, 21, of Moss Point, Miss., a back seat passenger in a 2012 Toyota Camry that the bus rear-ended, and the district fire chief of St. John the Baptist Parish, Spencer Chauvin. The injured included the other two firefighters, the bus driver, 24 bus passengers and a total of nine people in the car and pickups.

She said most injuries were minor to moderate, but that one firefighter is critically injured.

The bus driver, identified as Denis Yas-

mir Amaya Rodriguez, 37, of Honduras, will be arrested on two counts of negligent homicide and one each of reckless driving and driving without a license, she said.

"Additional criminal charges are forthcoming," she said.

The ladder truck from St. John the Baptist Parish, west of New Orleans, had parked across the right lane of Interstate 10 to block traffic while police investigated an earlier wreck involving a pickup that had skidded on the wet road, crashing into both guardrails about 6:40 a.m., Matey said.

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Belgian crime lab set ablaze

Associated Press

BRUSSELS — Attackers rammed a car through the gates of Belgium's crime institute early Monday and set fire to a lab containing crime scene samples, apparently in an effort to destroy evidence, Brussels prosecutors said.

As the blaze in the north Brussels suburb erupted, residents heard at least one explosion and Belgian media reported a bomb attack, but investigators said the noise was probably materials going up in flames.

Belgium has been on high alert since suicide bombings at the Brussels airport and subway killed 32 people on March 22, and security forces remain on standby for another attack.

Prosecutors said five people were detained for questioning and were released without charge following the Monday incident, which happened about 2 a.m. in Neder-Over-Heembeek. No one was injured.

"It's probably not terrorism. It's a criminal act," said Ine Van Wymersch, a spokeswoman for the Brussels prosecutor's office. "I cannot confirm that there was any bomb."

The forensic facility assists Belgium's justice authorities in carrying out their investigations, and the lab contains DNA samples found at crime scenes.

"The location was not chosen randomly," Van Wymersch said. She said the lab contains "sensitive information" being used in ongoing investigations.

The fire and damage hampered the efforts of investigators to enter the scene, and she said it would take some time to establish exactly what had been destroyed.

"The laboratory does thousands of analyses each year, so we don't know what damage has been done yet," Van Wymersch told reporters. "It is obvious that several individuals would have an interest in making elements in their justice file disappear."

Belgium's police and army have been deployed in large numbers since suicide bombers attacked Paris last November, leaving 130 dead. Many of the attackers had links to Belgium.

Tensions also have been running high in Belgium in recent weeks amid a series of criminal knife and shooting attacks and two hoax anthrax attacks.

After quake, Italy seeks to improve homeless housing

Associated Press

ROME — With thousands left homeless after Italy's earthquake, authorities are debating how to provide warmer, sturdier housing for them besides the rows of blue emergency tents set up in the Apennine Mountains, where even summer nights can get chilly.

Nearly 2,700 people needing shelter following the temblor last Wednesday are staying in 58 tent camps or other shelters arranged by Italy's Civil Protection agency. Others are staying in a gym in the hardest-hit town, Amatrice, while others, fearful of looting, are often sleeping in cars near their damaged homes.

Italy's lobbying group for farmers, Coldiretti, said Monday that farm animals, most of

them sheep and cows, also need warm shelters at night because 90 percent of the stalls or barns have been damaged in the Amatrice area.

Italian architect Renzo Piano met Premier Matteo Renzi on Sunday. Speaking in an interview Sunday in the Corriere della Sera newspaper, Piano proposed building temporary wooden homes near the three devastated towns in central Italy so that traumatized people could stay near their roots.

No housing decisions have been announced, and details of Renzi's meeting with Piano weren't immediately known.

The death toll Monday stood at 290. Authorities are using bulldozers with high crane-style arms to tear down some of the most dangerous building overhangs in Amatrice.

S. Korea says it has no plans to introduce nuclear subs

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea's Defense Ministry said Monday it has no plans to introduce nuclear-powered submarines despite calls by lawmakers to do so following a recent test of a submarine-launched missile by rival North Korea.

The ballistic missile traveled about 310 miles, the greatest distance achieved by North Korea for such a weapon. Last week's test caused jitters among many South Koreans because submarine-based missiles are harder to detect before launch than land-based ones.

A group of 21 ruling-party lawmakers issued a joint statement on Sunday calling for

the introduction of nuclear-powered submarines to better deal with increasing security threats from North Korea.

But the Defense Ministry said Monday it has no such plan, but didn't elaborate.

South Korea acquiring nuclear submarines could trigger worries about a regional arms race.

After North Korea's fourth nuclear test in January, some conservative lawmakers and scholars demanded that South Korea develop its own nuclear weapons, but the government dismissed the request. The U.S. has long said the protective "nuclear umbrella" it provides South Korea is meant to deter an attack on its ally by North Korea.

Philippine president: My drug war is not genocide

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said Monday that his anti-drug campaign that has left nearly 1,800 people dead does not amount to genocide, but he's ready to go to jail to defend his men from lawsuits.

Duterte, 71, drew a line between the widespread killings sparked by his anti-drug war and the brutality under Syrian President Bashar Assad and atrocities committed by Islamic State group extremists.

"Genocide? Who did I kill? I did not kill any child. I did not drop barrel (bombs) just like Assad," Duterte said in a speech to mark the Philippines' national

heroes' day before war veterans, ambassadors and top officials. "I'm fighting ... criminals."

Referring to Islamic State militants, whom he called "idiots," Duterte said, "I do not burn women because they refuse to have sex."

At least 1,779 drug suspects have been killed in Duterte's campaign, including 712 who were gunned down in clashes with police. The rest were slain under still-unclear circumstances, the national police chief told a Senate inquiry last week.

Human rights groups have expressed alarm over the spate of killings, and human rights experts appointed by the United Nations warned that steps should be taken to halt the violence.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man, 68, is stung to death by his own bees

TX WACO — A Central Texas man died after he was attacked by a swarm of bees while riding a lawn mower on his rural property.

Authorities said Donald Williams, 63, was mowing grass Friday when he was attacked at his rural property about 8 miles northwest of Waco. McLennan County Sheriff Parnell McNamara said the man's wife looked outside and saw her husband lying on the ground, covered in bees.

The woman rushed to her husband and was stung multiple times herself. Both were taken to Baylor Scott & White Hillcrest Medical Center in Waco, where Williams died.

The sheriff said the bees apparently came from hives Williams maintained on his property.

Government wrongfully declares woman dead

UT ROY — A Utah woman is trying to come back from the dead, at least in the federal government's eyes.

Barbara Murphy, 64, of Roy, told the Deseret News that a death certificate has made it appear that she died in July 2014.

She said the Social Security Administration has been trying to reclaim two years' worth of payments as a result. The government also has been trying to get back any Medicare or Medicaid money spent on care she received.

Social Security Administration regional spokeswoman Cindy Malone said she could not release information about Murphy's case because of privacy laws.

Court: Treat strippers at club like employees

NY ALBANY — A mid-level state court has ruled that a suburban Syracuse strip club's dancers are employees and the company owes unemployment insurance payments on their behalf.

The four Appellate Division justices have rejected the challenge to rulings of Unemployment Insurance Appeal Board by Greystoke Industries, operator of Paradise Found in Dewitt.

They cited "substantial evidence" to support the finding that it exercised sufficient control over the dancers to establish an employment relationship, despite evidence that could support "a contrary result."

Couple wed to sweet sound of tornado sirens

MI GRAND RAPIDS — Not even tornado sirens could stop a Michigan couple from saying "I do."

As the sirens blared across Grand Rapids, Brandon Warner married Breane Proctor in front of family members and guests at a church.

Despite the storm threat, Warner decided to proceed with the Aug. 20 ceremony.

"Bree is ready and we're all here. Let's go through with this," he told The Grand Rapids Press for a story Monday. "Let's make it happen. I figured if we were going to get hit, maybe it was meant to be."

"We just kind of shrugged our shoulders and went down the aisle," said Proctor.

After the couple exchanged vows, storm sirens sounded again and everyone stood beneath the church's balconies, away from its stained-glass windows.

A little less than an hour after they said "I do," a tornado reportedly touched down less than 3 miles away, according to the paper.

48-year fugitive to fight extradition to Georgia

CT DANBURY — A Connecticut man who spent 48 years on the lam after escaping from prison is expected to fight an attempt to return him to Georgia.

Robert Stackowitz, 71, was set to appear in state court in Danbury for an extradition hearing Tuesday.

His lawyer, Norman Pattis, has said they will try to fight his return to Georgia, where he fled a prison work camp in Carrolton in 1968 while serving a 17-year sentence for robbery. Pattis said Stackowitz has major health problems including heart failure and bladder cancer, and any prison time would amount to a death sentence.

Connecticut officials have denied Stackowitz's requests to refuse to return him to Georgia.

Stackowitz was arrested May 9 at his Sherman home after his Social Security application turned up a fugitive warrant.

Officer's wife accused of stealing for drugs

NV LAS VEGAS — The wife of a Henderson, Nev., police lieutenant is facing charges she cashed a stolen check so she could buy drugs.

The Las Vegas Review-Journal said Heidi DeVaney, 50, told officers upon her arrest last week that she had addictions to pills and other forms of drugs and was desperate for cash, according to a police report. DeVaney has been booked on one count each of burglary, forgery, theft and fraud.

A \$1,000 check was reported stolen and cashed by an employee of the College of Southern Nevada, where DeVaney works. Investigators identified the suspect from bank surveillance footage.

DeVaney is the wife of police Lt. John DeVaney.

Men accused of buying cars with movie money

GA RIVERDALE — Police say two men accused of buying cars with fake money used in movies were arrested in suburban Atlanta.

Gwinnett police spokeswoman Cpl. Michele Pihera told local news media that Joseph DeAngelo Lamb, 39, and Dominic Darnel Mayberry, 21, were arrested Friday in Clayton County. Police said Lamb and Mayberry used the app called "5Miles" to pick out items, then met the sellers to finalize the

deals.

Police said the suspects orchestrated scams on at least two occasions within hours of each other to purchase vehicles in Loganville and Lawrenceville. Both are charged with first-degree forgery and theft by deception in connection with the Aug. 14 incident.

Cruise ship captain suspended after crash

MD BALTIMORE — Spirit Cruises says the captain of a cruise ship that crashed into a dock in Maryland has been suspended from duty.

The Spirit of Baltimore was returning from a cruise when it ran into a dock in Baltimore early Sunday morning. A statement released by Spirit Cruises says two of the 412 passengers on board suffered minor injuries. They were taken to a hospital and have since been released.

The dock was damaged and two small boats were scratched by the bigger ship.

The Spirit of Baltimore did not incur any significant damage and has been cleared to sail. Future cruises will go on as scheduled.

Sea turtles are freed; mariners are warned

MA PROVINCETOWN — A marine coastal studies team has freed two leatherback sea turtles that became tangled in equipment in Cape Cod Bay, and warned mariners to watch out for more of them.

The Marine Animal Entanglement Response team at the Center for Coastal Studies said Saturday there have been increased sightings of leatherback turtles, meaning they've likely moved into local waters to forage for jellyfish.

The team says mariners should look for entangled turtles and report the sightings immediately but stay at a safe distance from the animals.

From wire reports

Ryan: Standing for anthem pays respect to the military

BY JOHN WAWROW
Associated Press

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Buffalo Bills coach Rex Ryan believes standing for the national anthem is a way for NFL players and coaches to show respect and give thanks to members of the armed forces.

“You’ve got to look at the gifts that we have, the opportunity that we have to play a great game is through the men and women that serve our country,” Ryan said before practice on Sunday. “And I think that’s an opportunity right there just to show respect.”

He was asked his opinion a day after San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick said he is refusing to stand for the anthem because he believes the United States oppresses

African Americans and other minorities.

Without specifically mentioning Kaepernick, Ryan said he can appreciate how some players have personal or religious beliefs that lead them to not stand for the anthem.

“Any time when I talk to our team about that, if there’s personal beliefs or whatever that keeps you from doing it, then I understand,” he said.

However, Ryan added, he encourages his players to stand for the anthem, and to do so as a team in a straight line along the sideline.

“That’s kind of our way of giving thanks,” Ryan said. “It’s an important thing for me.”

Giants wide receiver Victor Cruz said after his team’s exhibition victory against the Jets on Saturday night that the

American flag deserves respect — no matter the circumstances in the U.S. or beyond.

“The flag is the flag,” Cruz said. “Regardless of how you feel about things that are going on in America today, and the things that are going on across the world with gun violence and things of that nature, you’ve got to respect the flag, and you’ve got to stand up with your teammates. It’s bigger than just you, in my opinion.”

Without directly addressing Kaepernick, Oakland Raiders coach Jack Del Rio posted on Twitter his appreciation for the armed forces.

“I Appreciate the sacrifices of the brave who have fought for our freedom. We R Free to choose. I choose to (heart and the American flag icons).”

Broncos’ Siemian to start at QB

BY ARNIE STAPLETON
Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — From afterthought to starter, Trevor Siemian is Peyton Manning’s successor.

Coach Gary Kubiak told the team Monday that Siemian will be the starting quarterback when the Denver Broncos face Carolina in the season opener Sept. 8.

Siemian will become the only quarterback with zero passing attempts to take over a defending Super Bowl champion in Week 1.

Kubiak informed Siemian, Mark Sanchez and Paxton Lynch of his decision before telling their teammates at their morning meeting.

A seventh-round selection out of Northwestern last year, Siemian has just one NFL snap on his resume, a kneel-down when he was the No. 3 QB last year behind Manning and his long-time backup, Brock Osweiler.

Manning retired a month after Denver’s 24-10 win over the Panthers in Super Bowl 50, and Osweiler left for Houston 48 hours later.

General manager John Elway quickly acquired Sanchez from the Eagles and drafted Lynch in the first round. The Broncos will save \$3.5 million and a conditional seventh-round draft pick if they cut Sanchez, as expected.

With Lynch needing some seasoning as he adjusts from the spread offense he ran at Memphis, the QB competition came down to Sanchez, who has 72 career NFL starts, and Siemian, who wasn’t even a full-time starter in college.

Siemian had the most experience in coach Gary Kubiak’s West Coast offense and showed a lot of progress in the offseason.

QB will sit until there’s change

BY JANIE MCCAULEY
Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Defiant, and determined to be a conduit for U.S. change, Colin Kaepernick plans to sit through the national anthem for as long as he feels is appropriate and until he sees significant progress in America — specifically when it comes to race relations.

He knows he could be cut by the San Francisco 49ers for this stand against police brutality against minorities. Criticized, ostracized, and he’ll go it all alone if need be.

The quarterback realizes he might be treated poorly in some road cities, and he’s ready for that, too, saying he’s not overly concerned about his safety, but “if something happens that’s only proving my point.”

“I’m going to continue to stand with the people that are being oppressed,” Kaepernick

said at his locker on Sunday. “To me this is something that has to change. When there’s significant change and I feel like that flag represents what it’s supposed to represent, this country is representing people the way that it’s supposed to, I’ll stand.”

Kaepernick hasn’t stood for the anthem in any of the team’s three NFL preseason games, and insists whatever the consequences, he will know “I did what’s right.” He said he hasn’t heard from the NFL or anyone else about his actions, and it won’t matter if he does.

“No one’s tried to quiet me and, to be honest, it’s not something I’m going to be quiet about,” he said. “I’m going to speak the truth when I’m asked about it. This isn’t for look. This isn’t for publicity or anything like that. This is for people that don’t have the voice. And this is for people that are being oppressed and need to have equal

opportunities to be successful. To provide for families and not live in poor circumstances.”

Kaepernick took the field on Sunday with the 49ers as his stance drew chatter across NFL camps. He explained his viewpoints to teammates in the morning, some agreeing with his message but not necessarily his method. Some said they know he has offended his countrymen, others didn’t even know what he had done.

“Every guy on this team is entitled to their opinion. We’re all grown men,” linebacker NaVorro Bowman said.

“I agree with what he did, but not in the way he did it,” wide-out Torrey Smith said. “That’s not for me. He has that right. Soldiers have died for his right to do exactly what he did. ... I know he’s taken a lot of heat for it. He understands that when you do something like that it does offend a lot of people.”

Reed wins Barclays, earns Ryder spot

Associated Press

FARMINGDALE, N.Y. — Patrick Reed had a crystal trophy, a clear shot at the richest payoff in golf and a spot on the Ryder Cup team.

All he could offer Rickie Fowler was best wishes to join him at Hazeltine.

Reed picked up two victories Sunday at The Barclays. He rallied from an early two-shot deficit to win the FedEx Cup playoff opener and assure himself a clear shot at the \$10 million bonus. And he secured a spot on the U.S. team at Hazeltine that will try to win back the Ryder Cup.

“Everyone’s been talking about the Ryder Cup, been talking about, ‘Oh, you’re in the eighth spot and you’re on the bubble’ and all that,” Reed said after his one-shot victory. “If you go and win, it takes care of everything else. ... It takes care of everything.”

The way Fowler finished only leads to two weeks of uncertainty.

Fowler needed only to finish alone in third place, which was the farthest from his mind as he battled Reed at Bethpage Black.

“I wasn’t trying to get a decent finish,” Fowler said. “I

was trying to win.”

Two shots behind with four holes to play — and two shots clear of third place — Fowler missed a 4-foot par putt on the 15th hole and made double bogey on the next hole. His late meltdown sent him to a 74, a tie for seventh and kept him off the Ryder Cup team.

Reed built a big enough lead that a few sloppy mistakes over the final hour didn’t matter. He made bogey on the final hole for a 1-under 70 and a one-shot victory over Sean O’Hair and Emiliano Grillo.

Fowler still could have made the Ryder Cup team with a birdie on the 18th hole. He missed another fairway and took bogey. It was the fourth time Fowler has failed to convert a 54-hole lead on the PGA Tour, though he remained optimistic.

“He just told me, ‘Hey, I’m going to go get my work done. I’ll see you in Minnesota,’” Reed said.

Sunday was the final day to earn eight automatic spots on the U.S. team. Fowler’s late collapse allowed Zach Johnson to claim the eighth and final spot. Davis Love III still has four captain’s picks over the next three weeks.

Reed, who finished at 9-under 275, wasn’t the only player who

felt like a big winner.

O’Hair was among five players who moved into the top 100 in the FedEx Cup, advancing to the next playoff event at the TPC Boston that starts Friday. And he made a big move, closing with a 66 to tie for second. That moved him all the way up to No. 15, assuring two more playoff events and giving O’Hair a good shot at staying in the top 30 who qualify for the finale at the Tour Championship.

Grillo birdied the final hole for a 69 and moved to No. 6.

Defending champion Jason Day struggled all week with his accuracy and had to settle for a 69, tying for fourth with Gary Woodland (69) and Adam Scott (71).

In other golf news:

■ Ariya Jutanugarn ran away with the Canadian Pacific Women’s Open at chilly Priddis Greens in Alberta for her LPGA Tour-leading fifth victory of the year — all in the last 10 events.

Nine days after withdrawing from the Rio Olympics because of a left knee injury, the 20-year-old Thai player shot a 6-under 66 and a four-stroke victory.

Bundled up in a winter jacket between shots with the temperature in the lows 50s on the

overcast afternoon, the second-ranked Jutanugarn matched the tournament record for relation of 23 under set by So Yeon Ryu two years ago at London Hunt in Ontario and the mark for strokes of 265 set by Ryu and also accomplished by Lydia Ko in 2013 at par-70 Royal Mayfair in Edmonton.

South Korea’s Sei Young Kim, a two-time winner this year, was second after a 65.

South Korea’s In Gee Chun, the 2015 U.S. Women’s Open champion, was third at 18 under after a 69.

■ Bernhard Langer made a 3-foot birdie putt on the first hole of a playoff with Woody Austin and Kevin Sutherland to win the PGA Tour Champions’ Boeing Classic in Snoqualmie, Wash., for the second time.

A day after his 59th birthday, Langer birdied the par-5 18th in regulation for a 5-under 67 to match Austin and Sutherland at 13-under 203 at TPC Snoqualmie Ridge.

Austin also had a 67, and Sutherland shot 64.

Gene Sauers, the second-round leader and U.S. Senior Open winner two weeks ago, shot a 72 to finish a shot out of the playoff.

Larson makes Chase with first Cup victory

Associated Press

BROOKLYN, Mich. — During the last couple laps of his first Sprint Cup victory, Kyle Larson was emotional.

“I think with two to go, I was starting to get choked up,” he said. “We worked really, really hard to get a win, and just haven’t done it. Finally all the hard work by everybody, hundreds of people at our race shop, people who have got me through to the Cup Series, it was all paying off.”

Larson took the lead on a restart with nine laps remaining and held off Chase Elliott at Michigan International

Speedway on Sunday in a duel between two of NASCAR’s up-and-coming standouts. Elliott had a comfortable lead before a tire problem on Michael Annett’s car brought out the yellow flag. Larson had the better restart and went on to win by 1.48 seconds.

Brad Keselowski finished third.

Larson’s victory in his No. 42 Chevrolet snapped a 99-race losing streak for Chip Ganassi Racing dating to Jamie McMurray’s victory at Talladega in 2013.

Larson secured a spot in the Chase for the Sprint Cup with two races left in the regular

season. Elliott remains winless, but is in solid shape to make the Chase field on points if need be.

It was the 99th career start for the 24-year-old Larson, who had 14 top-five finishes before Sunday but hadn’t won at the Cup level. The 20-year-old Elliott is winless in 29 starts, but this was an impressive showing for him after eight consecutive races outside the top 10.

Elliott finished second at Michigan in June as well, losing to Joey Logano.

“That’s a couple races in a row in just a few short months here at this place we had a really good car, had an opportu-

nity,” Elliott said. “That’s one thing I try really hard to do is make the most of opportunities when they’re presented. Obviously I didn’t do a very good job of that here both trips.”

Elliott led by 2.86 seconds with 28 laps to go Sunday, and it looked as if Larson’s chance to catch him had been derailed when he lost ground passing a lapped car. The caution gave him another shot, though, and he took advantage.

There were only four cautions in the 200-lap, 400-mile race. Larson led a race-high 41 laps. Logano, the pole winner, finished 10th.

Jays' Donaldson hits home run hat trick

Associated Press

TORONTO — Midway through his first at-bat Sunday, Blue Jays slugger Josh Donaldson was hopping around in pain after fouling a ball off his right knee.

From there, he was all smiles.

Donaldson had his first career three-homer game, Troy Tulowitzki also went deep and the Blue Jays beat the Twins 9-6 on Sunday to complete a three-game sweep.

Donaldson hit a solo homer off Kyle Gibson in the second, then delivered a go-ahead, two-run blast off Pat Light (0-1) in the seventh.

Dozens of fans tossed hats onto the field to celebrate the home run hat trick after Donaldson, the AL MVP in 2015, hit a solo shot off Alex Wimmers in the eighth. Groundskeepers and even the Blue Jays mascot helped clear the hats away. Donaldson came out for a curtain call as the crowd of 47,444 roared their approval.

Donaldson's fourth multi-homer game this season and the 10th of his career also marked the 17th three-homer game in the majors this season.

"It doesn't get any better than that," manager John Gibbons said. "He's heating up."

Jose Bautista had his first three-hit game of the season for the AL East-leading Blue Jays.

Minnesota lost its season-worst 10th straight. The Twins have lost seven straight in Toronto.

Rangers 2, Indians 1: Derek Holland allowed one run over six innings in his second start off the disabled list, new left fielder Carlos Gomez made two highlight-reel catches and AL-best Texas held off visiting Cleveland.

The Rangers took three of four in the series between division leaders, the first time since 1999 both teams were in first place when playing each other after the All-Star break.

Dodgers 1, Cubs 0: Brock Stewart and four relievers combined on a four-hitter and Andrew Toles scored on a fielder's choice in the eighth inning, leading host Los Angeles past Jon Lester and Chicago.

Giants 13, Braves 4: Joe Panik homered twice and matched his career high of four RBIs to back Madison Bumgarner, and San Francisco beat

visiting Atlanta for its second series win since the All-Star break.

Padres 3, Marlins 1: Rookie Luis Perdomo benefited from a team-record six double plays and pitched a six-hitter for his first complete game, helping San Diego beat host Miami.

Phillies 5, Mets 1: A.J. Ellis had a big hit in his Philadelphia debut, breaking a seventh-inning tie with a two-run double that sent the Phillies past host New York.

Orioles 5, Yankees 0: Kevin Gausman tamed the torrid New York hitters, Mark Trumbo lined his major league-leading 40th home run and Steve Pearce also connected to help visiting Baltimore avert a sweep.

Rockies 5 Nationals 3: Nolan Arenado went 4-for-4, hitting his 35th home run and a triple, and drove in three runs in Colorado's victory over host Washington.

Royals 10, Red Sox 4: Raul Mondesi hit a bases-loaded triple and Eric Hosmer added a two-run single during an eight-run sixth inning, lifting surging Kansas City past host Boston.

Athletics 7, Cardinals 4: Rookie Andrew Triggs earned

his first win and Stephen Vogt and Khris Davis homered to lead visiting Oakland past St. Louis.

Angels 5, Tigers 0: Former Tiger Jefry Marte had three RBIs and Tyler Skaggs shut down host Detroit in Los Angeles' win.

Rays 10, Astros 4: Chris Archer struck out 10 in seven innings, Corey Dickerson hit a three-run homer and Tampa Bay beat host Houston.

White Sox 4, Mariners 1: Carlos Rodon pitched into the seventh inning, Justin Morneau had a two-run single and Melky Cabrera drove in a run and scored twice in Chicago's victory over visiting Seattle.

Diamondbacks 11, Reds 2: Yasmany Tomas homered, Wellington Castillo drove in four runs and Archie Bradley won for the first time in more than a month in Arizona's victory over visiting Cincinnati.

Pirates 3, Brewers 1: Ivan Nova threw six sharp innings before leaving early because of a hurting left hamstring and Pittsburgh hit three solo homers to rally for its eighth straight road victory.

NY pitcher ends US title drought in LLWS

Associated Press

SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. — As Ryan Harlost stepped to the mound on Sunday, he took it all in.

Chants of "U-S-A, U-S-A!" droned over his left shoulder as he dipped it to deliver a warm-up pitch. South Korean arms and flags waved furiously to his right. Little kids who asked for his autograph last week used makeshift sleds to slide down the hill toward most of the 22,000-plus fans who packed Lamade Stadium.

The Endwell, N.Y., pitcher admitted it made him uneasy. He sure didn't show it.

Harlost led New York to the Little League World Series title, striking out eight and limiting South Korea to five hits in six innings in a 2-1 victory. He scored the deciding run on a passed ball in the fourth inning.

Endwell snapped a five-year champi-

onship drought for U.S. teams on Little League's biggest stage and gave New York its first title since 1964. Huntington Beach, California, won in 2011 and Mid Island from Staten Island won New York's last World Series championship.

Conner Rush had the New York team's only RBI to give Endwell a lead it wouldn't relinquish in the bottom of the fourth. Harlost (2-0) scored the deciding run on a passed ball a batter later.

"I was just thinking get it in play any way you can," Rush said. "Once that happens, you never know what can happen."

For a while, it didn't look like New York hitters would be able to hit anything.

Junho Jeong (1-2) gave up two runs on four hits and struck out nine for South Korea (4-2). He was unflappable for most of the afternoon, working the outside of the plate masterfully for 3 1/3 innings of no-hit

ball before Jude Abbadessa broke through in the fourth.

Waking to the plate as Endwell fans along the first base side bellowed "Juuude!" Abbadessa broke up the righty's no-hit bid with a single to center. Harlost followed with a liner to the same spot and Rush plated the go-ahead run with a hit that fell in behind the shortstop. Harlost raced home to give New York a 2-0 lead one batter later.

"It's just been amazing," Abbadessa said. "Just coming here would be amazing and then our team doing well is even more amazing. It's been fun the whole week and we're glad that it turned out this way."

Yoomin Lee homered for the Asia-Pacific champs from Seoul to halve New York's lead in the fifth. Harlost's precision and a stingy New York defense prevented further damage.