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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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N. Korea's weapons programs active

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — North Korea has not stopped its nuclear and missile programs and is violating U.N. sanctions including by “a massive increase in illicit ship-to-ship transfers of petroleum products,” U.N. experts said in a new report.

A summary of the report by experts monitoring U.N. sanctions against North Korea, which was sent to the Security Council Friday night and was obtained by The Associated Press, said North Korea also is violating sanctions by transferring coal at sea and is flouting an arms embargo and financial sanctions.

The panel of experts said North Korea attempted to sell small arms, light weapons and other military equipment via foreign intermediaries, including Syrian arms traffickers, in the case of Houthi Shiite rebels in Yemen, as well as Libya and Sudan. The report also said North Korea has continued military cooperation with Syria, in breach of U.N. sanctions.

The panel said it is continuing to investigate sanctioned individuals, companies

and other entities in Asia that clandestinely procured centrifuges for North Korea's nuclear program and attempted to sell a wide range of military equipment to governments and armed groups in the Middle East and Africa.

The Security Council first imposed sanctions on North Korea after its first nuclear test in 2006 and has made them tougher in response to further nuclear tests and its increasingly sophisticated ballistic missile program.

Many diplomats and analysts credit the sanctions, which have sharply cut North Korea's exports and imports, with helping promote the thaw in relations between North Korea and South Korea as well as the June meeting between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

But the report said North Korea “has not stopped its nuclear and missiles programs” and continues to defy the sanctions resolutions.

The experts said ship-to-ship transfers of petroleum products, oil and coal in-

volve “increasingly sophisticated evasion techniques.”

These include turning off automatic identification systems, which are required to be on at all times under international regulations; physically disguising North Korean tankers; using small, unregistered vessels; illegally changing names; carrying out night transfers and using additional vessels to trans-ship cargo, the report said.

The U.S. said last month that North Korea is illegally smuggling refined petroleum products into the country beyond the quota of 500,000 barrels per year allowed under U.N. sanctions.

U.S. documents sent to the Security Council committee monitoring sanctions against North Korea cite 89 instances between Jan. 1 and May 30, in which North Korean tankers likely delivered refined products “illicitly procured” via ship-to-ship transfers.

The documents say that even if each tanker delivered only one-third of its listed capacity, the total volume would be above the 500,000-barrel annual quota.

Pentagon wary of Trump's push for Space Force

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump wants a Space Force, a new military service he says is needed to ensure American dominance in space. But the idea is gaining little traction at the Pentagon, where the president's defense chief, Jim Mattis, says it would add burdensome bureaucracy and unwanted costs.

The Pentagon acknowledges a need to revamp its much-criticized approach to defending U.S. economic and security interests in space, and it is moving in that direction. But it's unclear whether this will satisfy Trump, who wants to go even further by creating a separate military space service.

The administration intends to announce next week the results of a Pentagon study that is expected to call for creating a new military command — U.S. Space Command — to consolidate space warfighting forces and making other organizational changes short of establishing a separate service, which only Congress can do. Any legislative proposal to create a separate service would likely not be put on the table until next year.

Mattis, who said prior to Trump's “Space Force” announcement in June that he opposes creating a new branch of the military for space, said afterward that this would require “a lot of detailed planning.”

Mattis is allied on this with key Republicans on Capitol

Hill including Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla., a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee who opposes a separate Space Force but is open to creating a Space Command. The command would coordinate the use of space forces of existing services, such as those that operate military satellites, but would not be a separate service.

Mattis' chief spokeswoman, Dana W. White, said Friday that Mattis believes that consolidating space functions will “ensure we move at the speed of relevancy. Space is a joint warfighting domain that the U.S. must dominate.”

Trump mentioned as recently as Tuesday that he had ordered the Pentagon to begin

the process of creating a Space Force as a new branch of the military, but he did not repeat the phrase he used in June — a “separate but equal” service. That might open the possibility of the Pentagon proposing to establish a cadre of space experts that would be part of a space “corps” attached to the Air Force rather than as a separate service.

On Friday, Trump hailed the news that NASA has named the astronauts who will ride the first commercial capsules into orbit next year. “We have the greatest facilities in the world and we are now letting the private sector pay to use them,” he tweeted. “Exciting things happening. Space Force!”

Report: Trump panel did not find broad voter fraud

BY MARINA VILLENEUVE
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine — The now-disbanded voting integrity commission launched by the Trump administration uncovered no evidence to support claims of widespread voter fraud, according to an analysis of administration documents released Friday.

In a letter to Vice President Mike Pence and Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach, who are both Republicans and led the commission, Maine Secretary of State Matthew Dunlap said the documents show there was a “pre-ordained outcome” and that drafts of a commission report included a section on evidence of voter fraud that was “glaringly empty.”

“It’s calling into the darkness, looking for voter fraud,” Dunlap, a Democrat, told The Associated Press. “There’s no real evidence of it anywhere.”

Republican President Donald Trump convened the commission to investigate the 2016 presidential election after making unsubstantiated claims that between 3 million and 5 million ballots were cast illegally. Critics, including Dunlap, reject his claims of widespread voter fraud.

The Trump administration last month complied with a court order to turn over documents from the voting integrity commission to Dunlap. The commission met just twice and has not issued a report.

Dunlap’s findings received immediate pushback Friday from Kobach, who acted as vice chair of the commission while Pence served as chair.

“For some people, no matter how many cases of voter fraud you show them, there will

never be enough for them to admit that there’s a problem,” said Kobach, who is running for Kansas governor and has a good chance of unseating the incumbent, Jeff Colyer, in the Republican primary Tuesday.

“It appears that Secretary Dunlap is willfully blind to the voter fraud in front of his nose,” Kobach said in a statement released by his spokesman.

Kobach said there have been more than 1,000 convictions for voter fraud since 2000, and that the commission presented 8,400 instances of double voting in the 2016 election in 20 states.

“Had the commission done the same analysis of all 50 states, the number would have been exponentially higher,” Kobach said.

In response, Dunlap said those figures were never brought before the commission, and that Kobach hasn’t presented any evidence for his claims of double voting. He said the commission was presented with a report claiming more than 1,000 convictions for various forms of voter misconduct since 1948.

“The plural of anecdote is not data,” Dunlap said in his Friday letter to the shuttered commission’s leaders.

Pence’s office did not immediately respond to a request for comment Friday.

Dunlap said he is unsure whether the administration has released all relevant documents, and said the matter is in litigation. He said he was rebuffed repeatedly when he sought access to commission records including meeting materials, witness invitations and correspondence.

Dunlap released his findings on a website.

Youth care worker accused of abusing immigrant boys

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Federal authorities allege that a former youth care worker at a Phoenix-area facility for immigrant youths sexually abused eight teenage boys, one of several cases brought to light in recent weeks as thousands of immigrant children remain detained around the country.

Court documents show Levi-an Pacheco faces several charges stemming from incidents suspected to have happened between August 2016 and July 2017 at a Southwest Key facility in Mesa. The case was first reported by ProPublica.

Authorities charge that Pacheco performed sex acts on two boys and touched six others, all between the ages of 15 and 17 at the time. Court documents also state that Pacheco is HIV-positive, and that some of the teens opted to be tested for the virus.

Pacheco has pleaded not guilty and has denied the allegations. His federal public defender has said in court documents that the government’s

allegations of the crimes committed by Pacheco include an “extraordinarily broad range of dates and lack of specificity.”

“We are looking forward to defending Mr. Pacheco in court,” attorney Benjamin Good said in an email to The Associated Press.

The victims were all unaccompanied minors and it’s not clear if they had been separated from their parents or traveled to the U.S. alone.

The revelations Thursday came one day after police said another worker at a different Southwest Key facility, Fernando Magaz Negrete, is suspected of molesting a 14-year-old immigrant girl.

The Texas-based nonprofit organization, the largest contracted by the U.S. government to house immigrant children, has come under scrutiny for its practices at its various shelters around the Southwest. Many of the more than 2,000 children who were separated from their parents after crossing the border illegally have been held at Southwest Key facilities.

Judge says it’s government’s job to end family separations

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — A federal judge Friday said the Trump administration was solely responsible for reuniting hundreds of children who remain separated from their parents after being split at the U.S.-Mexico border, puncturing a government plan that put the onus on the American Civil Liberties Union.

“The reality is that for every parent that is not located, there will be a permanently orphaned child and that is 100 percent the responsibility of the administration,” U.S. District Judge Dana Sabraw said.

His remarks in a conference call came a day after the administration and the American

Civil Liberties Union submitted widely divergent plans on how to reunify more than 500 still-separated children, including 410 with parents outside the U.S.

The government proposed Thursday that the ACLU, which represents parents, use its “considerable resources” to find parents in their home countries, predominantly Guatemala and Honduras. The Justice Department said in a court filing that the State Department has begun talks with foreign governments on how the administration may be able to aid the effort.

Sabraw said he was disappointed with the court filing “in the respect that there’s not a plan that has been proposed.”

Calif. firefighters brace for weather risks

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Crews battling deadly Northern California wildfires braced for a weekend of windy, hot weather that could drive the flames into new areas and threaten more homes.

The National Weather Service issued red flag warnings of critical fire weather conditions through Saturday night, saying a series of dry low-pressure systems passing through the region could bring wind gusts of up to 35 mph that could turn small fires or even sparks into racing walls of flame.

“This is a particularly dangerous situation with extremely low humidity and high

winds. New fires will grow rapidly out of control, in some cases people may not be able to evacuate safely in time should a fire approach,” the weather service said in its bulletin for the Mendocino area north of San Francisco.

As a precaution, new evacuations were called Friday for an area of Mendocino and Lake counties where week-old twin fires have destroyed 41 homes and threaten about 9,000 more.

The fire has charred an area of the forested, rural area five times the size of San Francisco and is only 30 percent contained. Thousands of people remain evacuated.

The fire remained several miles from

the evacuated communities along the eastern shore of Clear Lake but “it looks like there’s dicey weather on the way,” California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection spokeswoman Jane LaBoa said.

However, some days-old evacuations were lifted Friday in an area near Redding, where armies of firefighters and fleets of aircraft have been battling an immense blaze about 100 miles south of the Oregon line.

Some areas on the fire’s southeastern flank were reopened to residents.

The Carr Fire was 39 percent contained after killing six people and incinerating 1,067 homes.

Man who harassed Yellowstone bison arrested

Associated Press

MAMMOTH HOT SPRINGS, Wyo. — An Oregon man who was caught on video harassing a bison in Yellowstone National Park was arrested in Glacier National Park in the third disturbance in less than a week at a national park, officials said Friday.

Rangers looking for Raymond Reinke of Pendleton, Ore., found him causing a disturbance Thursday evening at the historic Many Glacier Hotel in the popular Montana park, the National Park Service said.

He remains jailed pending a hearing this week and has requested a court-appointed attorney. A message left at a phone listing for Reinke in Oregon was not immediately

returned.

Reinke, 55, had been cited for drunken and disorderly conduct in a third national park, Grand Teton, last Saturday and was released on \$500 bond that required him to follow the law and avoid alcohol.

Yellowstone rangers cited him three days later for not wearing a seat belt and noted that he appeared intoxicated, park officials said. They didn’t know of Reinke’s bond conditions at the time.

Reinke was later cited after another Yellowstone visitor took video of him walking up to a bison in a roadway congested with stopped cars and waving his arms. The animal charges him a couple of times, but Reinke doesn’t appear to get hurt.

Yellowstone officials warn visitors to stay at least 25 yards away from bison, which injure tourists every year who get too close.

After the video gained attention online and Yellowstone rangers learned of Reinke’s charges in Grand Teton, an assistant U.S. attorney asked that his bond be revoked. A warrant was issued for Reinke’s arrest.

He had told rangers he planned to travel to Glacier National Park. Rangers there were looking for his vehicle when they got a report about two guests arguing and creating a disturbance at Many Glacier Hotel.

Rangers identified one of the guests as Reinke, who was sent back to Yellowstone and appeared in U.S. court Friday.

GOP grumbles as Trump reshapes midterm campaigns

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump’s strategy of becoming aggressively involved in the midterm elections is prompting concern among some Republicans who worry he’s complicating the political calculus for GOP candidates trying to outrun his popularity.

Those Republicans worry their statewide candidates could rise or fall based on Trump’s standing, muddling their path to maintain control of Congress.

But Trump has no plans to step out of the spotlight. He planned to hold a rally Saturday in Ohio and plans to host two fundraisers at the Trump National Golf Course in Bedminster, N.J., this week, benefitting Senate and House candidates, according to a campaign official with knowledge of the president’s events. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss de-

tails about the fundraisers that haven’t yet been publicly released.

The president is casting himself as the star of the midterms, eagerly inserting himself into hotly contested primaries, headlining rallies in pivotal swing states and increasing his fundraising efforts for Republicans. Last week, Trump agreed to donate a portion of his reelection fund to 100 GOP candidates running in competitive House and Senate races.

He’s expected to be even more aggressive in the fall. White House officials say he’s reserving time on his schedule for a midterm travel and fundraising schedule likely to surpass that of former Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama.

“This is now about Donald Trump,” said Al Cardenas, a former Florida Republican chairman. “It’s a high-risk, high-stakes proposition.”

The question facing Republicans is whether turning out those Trump loyalists is enough to win in toss-up congressional districts or if their path to victory depends more on capturing a share of independents and suburban women turned off by Trump’s tumultuous first term. It’s a dilemma they will confront in 2018 and beyond.

Trump aides argue no one energizes Republicans like the president, pointing to the throngs of thousands who wait in long lines to attend his rallies — he’s held 17 since taking office. The aides say the White House is taking a two-pronged approach, sending Trump to mobilize the base while other officials, such as his daughter Ivanka, can generate local headlines and help with voters who might not like the president’s aggressive style. The goal is to ensure that the occasional voters who turned out for Trump in 2016 cast ballots in the midterms.

Portugal heat wave breaks records

Associated Press

LISBON, Portugal — Eight places in Portugal broke local temperature records as a wave of heat from North Africa swept across the Iberian peninsula — and officials predicted the scorching temperatures could get even worse over the weekend.

Temperatures built to about 113 degrees Fahrenheit on Friday in many inland areas of Portugal, and were expected to peak at 116.6 degrees in some places Saturday. Large sections of Portugal are on red alert on the Civil Protection Agency's danger scale.

The highest temperature recorded Thursday, when the heat began to rise, was 113.4 degrees near Abrantes, a town 93 miles northeast of the capital, Lisbon, the country's weather agency IPMA said.

Portugal's highest recorded temperature was 117.3 degrees in 2003. Emergency services have issued a red alert through Sunday, placing extra services such as medical staff and firefighters on standby.

In Portugal's southern Alentejo province, streets were largely deserted. Some farmers chose to work during the night instead of in the heat of the day. Beaches around Lisbon, the capital, were packed.

Some 400 firefighters and five water-dropping aircraft, meanwhile, were battling a wildfire in southern Portugal's Algarve region.

Portugal sees large wildfires every year, although unseasonably cool weather through the end of July has meant fewer blazes in 2018.

The government says only about 15 percent of the 10-year average area has been charred so far this year.

Temperatures were being driven higher across the Iberian peninsula by a hot air mass moving northward from Africa, which is also bringing dust from the Sahara Desert, meteorologists said. The dust gave the sky a dark yellow hue in some places.

In Spain, heat warnings were also issued for 41 of the country's 50 provinces

as temperatures were expected to reach up to 111.2 degrees. Spain's highest recorded temperature is 116.42 degrees in Cordoba, a southern city, in July 2017.

The World Meteorological Organization says continental Europe's record is 118.4 degrees in Greece in 1977.

In northern Europe, Sweden was still under threat from wildfires, which in recent weeks have extended into the Arctic Circle.

Sweden's Civil Contingencies Agency warned of "a high risk" for wildfires in central and southern Sweden this weekend because of the continuing dry weather and strong winds.

And over in Britain, an unusually long, torrid summer has taken its toll on the country's flowers. The supermarket chain Morrisons has begun selling "wonky" flowers that have not developed properly.

The U.K.'s Met Office weather service says July was the country's third-warmest month in more than a century.

Russian helicopter crash kills all 18 aboard

Associated Press

MOSCOW — A Russian helicopter crashed shortly after takeoff in Siberia on Saturday, killing all 18 people aboard.

The Interstate Aviation Committee, which oversees civil aviation in much of the former Soviet Union, said the Mi-8 helicopter collided with the load being carried by another helicopter that had taken off from the same pad in Vankor, above the Arctic Circle about 1,600 miles northeast of Moscow. The second helicopter was un-

damaged and landed safely, the committee said.

Helicopters frequently carry loads in slings that hang below the craft.

There were 15 passengers and three crew aboard the crashed helicopter, said a statement from the operator, UTair airlines.

Russian news reports said all the passengers were believed to have been working for a subsidiary of the state oil company Rosneft.

UTair, one of Russia's largest airlines, operates an extensive fleet of helicopters

serving Siberian oil fields as well as fixed-wing flights within Russia and to international destinations, mostly in former Soviet republics.

The helicopter that crashed was manufactured in 2010 and the pilot had nearly 6,000 hours of experience, including 2,300 as a captain, the UTair statement said.

Russian air safety has improved since the 1990s, when poor aircraft maintenance, pilot training and official oversight in the wake of the collapse of the Soviet Union resulted in a high crash incidence.

12-year-old girl reported missing is found in NYC

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — A 12-year-old girl visiting from China who was reported missing Thursday was found safe in New York City, officials said Friday.

Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority said in a statement that JinJing Ma was located Friday in New York City's Queens borough, "safe and in the custody of her parents."

The investigation is being led by the FBI, officials said. A number of local, state and federal agencies assisted in locating JinJing.

"This is a great example of the work that can be accomplished when the community and law enforcement come together to achieve a common goal," Airports Authority Police Chief David Huchler said in the statement. "We are grateful that JinJing is safe and with family."

Anna Demidchik, founding attorney of the Demidchik Law Firm — the firm representing JinJing Ma's family in this investigation — said JinJing's parents were the ones who picked her up from the airport and are the same people depicted in the photos and videos.

Her biological parents have been living in the U.S. for two years, during which time they had not seen their daughter, she said. JinJing's parents noticed the Amber Alert and contacted the firm. The firm immediately contacted authorities including Virginia State Police and the FBI.

The family is now together and JinJing Ma and her parents are all here lawfully, Demidchik said.

"The case is not being treated as an abduction anymore," Demidchik said. She said a large part of what happened seems to be a misunderstanding.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Festival 'sea goddess' dethroned over photos

ME ROCKLAND — The 2018 Maine Lobster Festival Sea Goddess was dethroned less than 24 hours after she was crowned because of what organizers described as photos of "inappropriate behavior" on her social media page.

Taylor Hamlin, 18, was crowned Sea Goddess at the 71-year-old festival Wednesday. On Thursday, she posted on Facebook she lost the title after community members emailed photos of her.

The Portland Press Herald reported one showed Hamlin holding a joint. Another showed her holding a device for vaping.

Organizers said the photos "were not in keeping with the behavior and image of the Maine Sea Goddess" and Taylor decided to resign.

Crown Princess Erin Dugan will assume sea goddess duties.

Dozens of goats chow down on neighborhood

ID BOISE — About 100 escaped goats munched on manicured lawns in Idaho's capital city Friday before being rounded up and hauled away.

Multiple news outlets captured the content goats calmly eating grass and shrubs in a Boise neighborhood before a trailer arrived amid clapping by neighborhood residents.

It's not clear where the goats came from or how they got loose.

Judge evicts nudists from rental house

HI HONOLULU — A Hawaii judge ordered the eviction of the tenants of an Oahu rental home that adver-

tised naked parties and gained the ire of neighbors.

Hawaii News Now reported the judge sided with property managers, citing lease violations, multiple disturbances and running a business out of the Nuuanu home.

Tenant Amy Highmoor said the property managers and neighbors are retaliating because of their alternative lifestyle and her complaints about the home's condition.

Neighbors have complained of the so-called Freedom House's loud parties, such as naked yoga, and a car fire.

Woman sues store over fallen champagne bottle

OR PORTLAND — An Oregon woman filed a lawsuit against a grocery store chain, claiming a champagne bottle was improperly bagged and smashed her right foot.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reported Tracey Gloy of Molalla filed the suit last week in Multnomah County Circuit Court seeking \$640,000 in damages from Safeway.

The suit claims the cashier failed to double or triple bag the bottle last August, so the flimsy plastic bag broke as Gloy was loading the groceries into her car.

Gloy claims the bottle caused trauma and left a hematoma, and she also sustained spine and neck injuries.

WWE wrestler Kane wins mayor's race

TN KNOXVILLE — Glenn Jacobs, the WWE wrestler known as Kane, won the bout for mayor in Tennessee's third largest county.

Jacobs, a Republican who also runs an insurance and real estate company, was leading Democrat Linda Haney by a

large margin with most of the votes counted in Knox County on Thursday. The Knoxville News Sentinel reported Jacobs claimed victory at his watch party, saying his decision to seek the mayor's job was met at first with "pretty resounding laughter" from some politicians.

Guinness opens first US brewery in 60 years

MD RELAY — The first Guinness brewery in the United States in more than 60 years opened in Maryland.

The Open Gate Brewery and Barrel House opened to the public Friday in Relay, about 10 miles from Baltimore.

It will be the home of Guinness Blonde beer and other new Guinness beers created for the U.S. market. The brewery will offer free self-guided tours. Later this summer, it will have guided tours with beer tastings for \$10.

The exact number of beers on tap will vary, but there will typically be more than 15 beers available at one time.

Lawsuit: Woman had no anesthesia for C-section

CA OCEANSIDE — A woman suing a Southern California hospital said she underwent a cesarean section without anesthesia.

According to the San Diego Union-Tribune, the suit filed last month claims an anesthesiologist didn't immediately answer pages at Tri-City Medical Center in Oceanside last November, so the emergency operation was performed without him.

The suit said Delfina Mota was more than 41 weeks pregnant when she was admitted and delivery became urgent after staff couldn't detect a

fetal heart rate.

The suit said Mota, 26, passed out from the pain. She delivered a healthy baby girl.

Police: Trailer with 400 guns stolen from casino

NV LAS VEGAS — Police in the Las Vegas suburb of Henderson said they're investigating a report that a truck and trailer containing about 400 firearms was stolen from a casino parking lot.

Henderson Police Officer Rod Pena said Thursday that police could only release few details about the theft because it could jeopardize the safety of officers in the ongoing investigation.

He said the trailer was reported stolen at the Fiesta Henderson hotel-casino, but that he couldn't explain who owned the trailer, why it was full of guns and whether police have any suspects.

Police stop tot, give him 'cuteness warning'

MA MALDEN — A 1-year-old motorist was pulled over for driving without a license — but he got off with a "cuteness warning."

Police in the Boston suburb of Malden say they staged the traffic stop after spotting Grayson Salerno driving a red toy Mercedes convertible along a sidewalk.

An officer pulled his cruiser behind Grayson, switched on the blue flashing lights and pretended to write a ticket.

Photos and video of the incident have been widely shared on social media.

It's doubtful the young offender understands the charge. He was wearing a T-shirt with the inscription: "I have literally no idea what you are saying."

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Frost rebuilding Nebraska Osborne's way

Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb.— Tom Osborne, like most others in this football-mad state, senses a resurgence coming for one of the college game's historical blue bloods.

Osborne, 81, who won 255 games in his 25 years and ended his career with national titles in three of his last four seasons, acknowledged he had disconnected emotionally from the program as it languished under Mike Riley. Nebraska's first preseason practice under new coach Scott Frost was Friday and Osborne is among the many interested in what happens next.

"I guess I'm a little bit more engaged right now in terms of wanting to go to practice, wanting to be actively watching the games than maybe in the last three years," Osborne said in an interview. "Not that I wasn't interested and not that I didn't want them to do well, but I just really didn't understand the

culture. So this culture, I think, I will understand a lot better."

Osborne should. The culture Frost promises, after all, is going to be akin to the one Osborne fostered back in the day when the Cornhuskers were among the best teams in the nation.

Frost lived it as Osborne's quarterback in 1996-97, when Nebraska went 24-2, 16-0 in Big 12 regular-season games, and split the '97 national title with Michigan.

"If you have a company that's best in its sector for 25 years and then it underperforms for the next 10 or 15, you're crazy if you don't look back at what made that company the best in its field for as long as Nebraska was the best in college football," Frost said. "We need to get a lot of those things back. We're going to embrace some of the same ideas and try to get the program back close to where it was when coach Osborne was here."

That means pursuing pros-

pects who truly fit the system — in this case, Frost's no-huddle spread option offense and the 3-4 defense — and developing them rather than chasing and pampering four- and five-star recruits.

It means bringing back a cutting-edge strength program that was the envy of college football from the 1970s through the '90s and spawned beefy offensive linemen who wore down the opposition.

It means restoring the walk-on program to the point it builds the roster to 150 players, facilitates a practice environment where players are fully engaged rather than standing around, and stimulates competition where hungry prospects are given opportunities to push scholarship players for jobs.

"Coach Osborne had the formula figured out," Frost said. "Some of the things he did to make the program arguably the best in the country can still work today. Nebraska has just gone away from them. We're

going to adopt a lot of things again and do it in a modern way and do it in a way that recruits and kids are going to want to be a part of."

Frost left his job as Oregon's offensive coordinator to take over a Central Florida program that was winless in 2015. Last season, his UCF team went 13-0 with a Peach Bowl win over Auburn, and he was Associated Press national coach of the year. His homecoming to Nebraska has been one of the top stories of the offseason.

The 43-year-old Frost grew up 100 miles west of Lincoln and it seems a natural fit that he would embrace Osborne's ways.

"Tradition is a wonderful thing when you have it. We have it here because of guys like coach Osborne," Frost said. "Might be me, but I think he's looked happier and healthier the last few months. I've spent a lot of my life trying to make people like coach Osborne proud, and I won't stop now."

Meyer insists he followed protocol in abuse allegations

Associated Press

Ohio State coach Urban Meyer insisted Friday he followed proper protocols in reporting domestic violence allegations against an assistant coach in 2015, passionately defending himself in his first extensive comments since he was put on paid leave amid a university investigation.

Meyer posted a statement addressed to Buckeyes fans on Twitter not long after his team, expected to be one of the best in the nation, opened practice for the upcoming season without their coach. Meyer was put on leave Wednesday.

Shortly after Meyer's statement posted, Zach Smith, the fired assistant coach accused of assaulting his wife, told Columbus radio station 105.7 The Zone that Ohio State athletic director Gene Smith spoke with him in 2015 about the allega-

tions made by Courtney Smith that fall. A police report was made about the incident, but no charges were filed.

Zach Smith was fired last week by Meyer.

Smith told ESPN in a separate interview he never assaulted his wife and any physical injuries she might have suffered were the result of him defending himself. He said he spoke to Meyer in 2015 about the allegations. He said Meyer told him then he would fire Smith if the head coach found out Smith hit his wife.

"I don't know what else Urban Meyer could have done," Zach Smith told ESPN.

What Meyer knew about the allegations and what he did about them has ballooned into a crisis for one of the most storied programs in college football history. It also comes as the school is reeling from a

sexual abuse scandal involving a now-dead sports doctor, Richard Strauss.

The Buckeyes open the season at home Sept. 1 against Oregon State. Co-offensive coordinator Ryan Day is acting head coach and there is no timeline for the Meyer inquiry to conclude.

"Over the past several days I have been portrayed as being indifferent to domestic violence and as someone who did not take appropriate action when warranted," Meyer said.

"Here is the truth: While at the University of Florida and now at the Ohio State University I have always followed proper reporting protocols and procedures when I have learned of an incident involving a student-athlete, coach or member of our staff by elevating the issues to the proper channels. And I did so regarding the Zach Smith

incident in 2015. I take that responsibility very seriously and any suggestion to the contrary is simply false."

At Big Ten media days last week, Meyer said he knew of an incident involving the Smiths in 2009 and that he and his wife, Shelley Meyer, addressed it with the Smiths. He was also asked about a 2015 incident alleged by Courtney Smith, who also said she told Meyer's wife about those incidents.

"I can't say it didn't happen because I wasn't there," Meyer said at the time. "I was never told about anything and nothing ever came to light. I've never had a conversation about it. I know nothing about it. First I heard about that was last night. No, and I asked some people back at the office to call and say what happened and they came back and said they know nothing about it."

Manziel throws 4 INTs in CFL debut

Associated Press

MONTREAL — Johnny Interception?

Johnny Manziel threw an interception — and made a tackle — on his second play in the Canadian Football League. It didn't get much better after that, with four of his six first-half series ending in interceptions.

Seeing regular-season action for first time since December 2015 with the NFL's Cleveland Browns, the quarterback known as Johnny Football fizzled in a hurry in the Montreal Alouettes' 50-11 loss to the Hamilton Tiger-Cats on Friday night.

"This is a humbling experience," Manziel said. "I've had this experience in the past and there are two ways you go about this moving forward. One, you can let it get you down and sulk and harm you moving forward.

The other way is to take this on the chin like a man and never let this taste creep back in your mouth again and never let it happen again. This will motivate me."

After completing a pass for a 5-yard loss on his first play, Manziel threw an interception on the second — with the 2012 Heisman Trophy winner bringing down linebacker Larry Dean.

"I didn't feel uncomfortable," Manziel said. "I just feel I might have been a bit too amped up. As the game started, I made a really uncharacteristic throw on the first drive and it really set us back. I did a bad job of setting the tone on that first drive.

On Manziel's second series, with Montreal down 14-0 to his former Hamilton teammates, he handed off twice before the Tiger-Cats blocked a punt and

returned it for a touchdown.

The former Texas A&M star had another pass intercepted on his third series, with the blame going to running back Tyrell Sutton for mishandling and deflecting the ball to defender Jumal Rolle.

Manziel led Montreal to a field goal on his fourth drive, then threw his third interception early in the second quarter — Rolle's second of the night.

The fourth interception came with 2:22 left in the half that ended with the Tiger-Cats up 38-3.

Manziel finished 11-for-20 for 104 yards. He played three series in the third quarter — all ending in punts — before giving way to backup Vernon Adams in the fourth.

"It didn't look like anybody was ready today," Montreal coach Mike Sherman said. "The defense, the offense, the

special teams. I don't have any regrets. He's going to have to get his first game out of his system."

Manziel began the season with Hamilton, but couldn't get on the field behind starter Jeremiah Masoli and was traded to Montreal two ago weeks ago.

"Would it have been nice to be here for three weeks and then get the start? Sure," Manziel said. "But I didn't lack any confidence coming into the game. I didn't feel unprepared. But who knows? I got the start and it went just about as bad as it could possibly go."

The Alouettes are 1-6 and have won just once in 18 games going back a year.

Masoli was 17-for-26 for 300 yards and two touchdowns and a scoring run for the Tiger-Cats (3-4).

Hall of Fame inductees awed by enormity of moment

Associated Press

CANTON, Ohio — Joining the most exclusive club in football truly hit home Friday for the Pro Football Hall of Fame's class of 2018.

Well, maybe not for the one guy missing, but certainly for Ray Lewis, Randy Moss, Brian Urlacher, Brian Dawkins, Robert Brazile, Jerry Kramer and Bobby Beathard.

While Terrell Owens was in Chattanooga planning his own ceremony, the other seven men who were scheduled to be inducted into the football shrine Saturday night attended the Gold Jacket Luncheon in Canton. Their takeaway was tinged with awe.

"I've never experienced anything like it in my life," said Lewis, like Moss and Urlacher a Hall of Famer in his first year of eligibility. "There was so much love and respect in that room. I've never experienced this level of greatness, this level of respect."

The luncheon isn't at all about food and drink. It's about

a kinship, a fraternity of the very best at what they did as athletes.

So when the likes of Joe Greene, Dick Butkus and Willie Lanier told their stories to the three linebackers in this year's class, Lewis, Urlacher and Brazile were spellbound.

"The stories and the brotherhood, I didn't realize what I was getting into," Urlacher said, shaking his head while smiling. "To hear the stories of what they'd gone through ..."

Of course, Kramer went through more than three decades of waiting to get in. The Packers guard became eligible in 1974 and wound up being voted into the hall as a senior candidate.

Brazile also went the senior route after becoming eligible in 1990. Beathard made it in the contributor's category and has been retired from NFL team front offices since 2000.

Much of the attention at a news conference Friday was paid to the four youngest men in this class; Dawkins got in on

his second try. Each of them was stoked by being part of the luncheon gathering.

And they spoke about the guys they idolized.

"Ronnie Lott is the first guy I wanted to be like, I looked up to that cat for much and modeled my game after him," said Dawkins, who probably was a harder hitter than Lott, though few defensive backs approached Lott's coverage skills. "He would challenge his teammates to do more, challenge himself to do more. He was a game changer in a game-changing league."

Urlacher pointed to Butkus, considered by many the greatest middle linebacker in NFL history, and Mike Singletary, his Hall of Fame predecessor for the Bears. But because Urlacher played safety at New Mexico — and often outran every teammate, regardless of position — his hero, like Dawkins', was a DB.

"Darren Woodson," Urlacher said. "I was a safety in college and a huge Cowboys fan and he was the guy I wanted to be like

when I grew up."

Urlacher has an edge on Woodson, who hasn't yet made it into the hall.

Moss mentioned being thrilled to chat with former teammate Chris Doleman, who was inducted in 2012.

"These guys set the foundation and we respect these guys who paved the way," Moss said. "It was great to be in there and hear a lot about it. You walk out of that room and say, 'I am glad to be part of this fraternity.'"

At the gold jacket celebration Friday night, Owens made the printed program's bio, and otherwise was a nonentity while the other class of 2018 members received their jackets.

While Owens is part of it because he was elected in February, his distancing himself from the proceedings here — and from his hall peers — didn't draw much response from 2018 class members. That's probably fitting, sort of like how an NFL coach won't talk about players who are holding out, focusing instead on "the guys who are here."

Verlander, Astros edge Dodgers

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — In a game dripping with World Series nostalgia, not everybody was willing to embrace the symbolism Friday after the Houston Astros earned a 2-1 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers at Dodger Stadium.

Justin Verlander struck out 14 Dodgers and George Springer brought home two runs on a double as the Astros appeared to pick up where last fall's World Series ended: In a Game 7 victory for Houston.

But Astros manager A.J. Hinch knows there are still two more games remaining in this series so he wasn't ready to raise a banner for this one.

"We've had good vibes since then, too," Hinch said, when asked about last fall. "This is a good place, but let's not overdramatize it. It's just a series."

Perhaps. But none of the players seemed to treat it that way.

Verlander was willing to admit that it meant more. In no way was Friday's game anywhere near a World Series environment, but for a regular-season game in August, the right-hander was impressed. He seemed motivated as well while tying a season high for strikeouts.

"This is not your average ballgame midweek, this is a big atmosphere, great ballclub with World Series aspirations and we played them in the World Series last year," Verlander said. "We beat them and we're in their ballpark. It kind of adds up to a great atmosphere. I expected nothing less and I didn't feel disappointed. The fans were awesome."

Verlander won his first career regular-season start at Dodger Stadium, giving up one run on four hits over 7²/₃ innings. He pitched well in last year's World Series but had a loss and a no-

decision in his two starts.

Springer was the unquestioned star of last year's World Series against the Dodgers. He had five home runs, including homers in games 4, 5, 6 and 7. It appeared to be more of the same Friday when he worked a walk in the first inning and ripped an RBI double to left in the second that brought home a second run when center fielder Cody Bellinger mishandled the ball. Springer did not think the two runs would be enough.

"Not with the past experience with those guys over there," Springer said. "But our guy (Verlander) was lights out again today. He was in control of the game from the start and he threw the ball well."

Astros reliever Hector Rondón recorded the final four outs for his 11th save.

Porcello leads Red Sox over rival Yankees

Associated Press

BOSTON — After Boston manager Alex Cora was ejected in the first inning, Rick Porcello ensured there was no need for further outbursts.

Porcello pitched a one-hitter, retiring his final 21 batters and striking out a season-high nine in leading the Red Sox to a 4-1 victory over the New York Yankees on Friday night.

Cora was ejected one pitch into the bottom of the first.

"It definitely got emotional, but I think more than anything it probably fired us up and might have got us locked in," Porcello said.

Porcello walked none, faced one batter over the minimum and needed only 86 pitches in a game that took 2 hours, 15 minutes — the fastest nine-inning Yankees-Red Sox game since May 6, 1994. Steve Pearce homered for the fourth time in two nights, and the Red Sox won for the sixth time in seven games to open a season-high 7¹/₂-game lead in the AL East and at 77-34 moved 43 games over .500 for the first time since 1946.

Porcello hit Brett Gardner with an 0-2 pitch starting the game, and New York's Luis Severino (14-5) answered with a high-and-inside fastball when Mookie Betts led off the bottom half.

Severino said there was no intent on the pitch to Betts, other than to come inside.

"If I'm going to hit somebody, I'm not going to miss," he said. "I'm not trying to hit nobody."

Betts, who barely had a chance to get up and dust himself off before Cora was ejected, wouldn't speculate — or say openly, anyway — on Severino's intent.

"It was up and in. Maybe it slipped. I'm not sure," Betts said.

Miguel Andujar's leadoff homer in the third was the only hit allowed by Porcello (14-4), who matched his season high for strikeouts and pitched his first complete game since July 23 last year.

Roundup

Angels' Ohtani has first 2-homer game

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Shohei Ohtani hit two home runs in a game for the first time in the major leagues, and the Los Angeles Angels defeated the Cleveland Indians 7-4 on Friday.

Ohtani, whose four hits were also the most of his big league career, singled in the eighth and scored the go-ahead run on David Fletcher's double.

The Angels won at Progressive Field for the first time since June 17, 2014, breaking a 10-game skid.

Ohtani hit a two-run homer in the first and a solo home run in the third off Mike Clevinger.

Justin Anderson (3-2) pitched the seventh and the Angels' bullpen held the Indians to one run over the final four innings.

Cleveland's bullpen allowed four runs in the eighth to break a 3-all tie.

Phillies 5, Marlins 1: Vince Velasquez allowed two hits in 6¹/₃ scoreless innings to

lead Philadelphia past visiting Miami.

Brewers 5, Rockies 3: Eric Thames hit a three-run homer with two outs in the ninth off embattled closer Wade Davis, and Milwaukee beat visiting Colorado.

Athletics 1, Tigers 0 (13): Ramon Laureano singled home the winning run with two outs in the bottom of the 13th inning for his first major league hit in his big league debut, sending Oakland past visiting Detroit.

Pirates 7, Cardinals 6: Adam Frazier's RBI single in the eighth inning helped host Pittsburgh beat St. Louis in Chris Archer's debut with his new team.

Braves 2, Mets 1: Ozzie Albies hit a tiebreaking double off Jacob deGrom, Anibal Sanchez pitched six effective innings and visiting Atlanta beat New York for its fifth straight win.

Cubs 5, Padres 4: Javier Baez tied his career high with his 23rd home run and took over the National League lead with

84 RBIs, helping host Chicago beat San Diego.

White Sox 3, Rays 2 (10): Yoan Moncada hit a go-ahead double in the 10th inning, lifting Chicago past host Tampa Bay.

Rangers 11, Orioles 3: Rougned Odor hit a grand slam and Joey Gallo and Robinson Chirinos had back-to-back homers in a seven-run fourth inning as Texas beat visiting Baltimore.

Diamondbacks 6, Giants 3: Paul Goldschmidt hit the 200th homer of his career as part of a five-run first inning to lead host Arizona.

Blue Jays 7, Mariners 2: Ryan Borucki held down Seattle's offense and visiting Toronto got home runs from Russell Martin and Devon Travis.

Twins 6, Royals 4: Jake Cave drew a bases-loaded walk in the fifth inning and host Minnesota endured a pair of rain delays before finally beating Kansas City.