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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Ghani offers conditional cease-fire with Taliban

BY J.P. LAWRENCE

Stars and Stripes

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani on Sunday announced a three-month-long cease-fire with the Taliban beginning Monday — but only if the Taliban reciprocate.

“We call on the leadership of the Taliban to welcome the wishes of Afghans for a long-lasting and real peace, and we urge them to get ready for peace-talks based on Islamic values and principles,” Ghani said via a tweet.

The announcement came on Afghan Independence Day amid a wave of violence across Afghanistan and follows a previous cease-fire in June.

In response to Ghani’s last cease-fire offer in June, the Taliban reciprocated with their own, which led to scenes of government soldiers and militants hugging and taking selfies in celebration.

Since the June cease-fire, however, the Taliban have increased attacks across Afghanistan and have engaged in long-sought discussions with U.S. officials, according to reports.

A district in northern Afghanistan fell to the Taliban early Sunday morning, just hours before the cease-fire announcement.

Afghan security forces had been battling the Taliban in Faryab province’s Bulcheragh district for a week before about 100 government employees — mostly police

officers — surrendered to the insurgents, provincial council leader Tahir Rahmani told Stars and Stripes.

“We knew they were going to surrender because the district center was under a lot of pressure,” Rahmani said. “There was no air or ground support.”

“We shared this information with the government several times, but they didn’t do anything,” Rahmani said.

Those who surrendered also provided the Taliban with U.S.-funded military vehicles, weapons and ammunition, a Taliban statement said.

The collapse of Bulcheragh district is the latest in a string of Taliban offensives.

In a surprise attack earlier this month, the Taliban infiltrated the city of Ghazni, a provincial capital just 100 miles southwest of Kabul. A multiday battle followed, leading to the deaths of about 100 members of the Afghan security forces and as many as 150 civilians.

After bombings by Afghan and U.S. air forces, the Taliban left Ghazni, but the attack disrupted months of optimism over advances in the peace process.

The Taliban last week also captured an Afghan military base in Faryab province, killing or wounding 43 soldiers. They also stormed two other bases, killing at least 40.

The uptick in violence counters the U.S. military’s narrative of progress in its lon-

gest war, now in its 17th year.

The Taliban released a statement Saturday boasting about their resilience. The statement did not mention a cease-fire but commented on reports that the militant group is speaking to U.S. officials, stating that for peace the “lone option is to end the occupation.”

Afghanistan’s 1TV reported on Saturday that the Taliban had demanded the release of 1,000 prisoners in return for a cease-fire.

Some Afghans worry that the Taliban could take advantage of another cease-fire, considering the strength they’ve shown recently.

Speaking to reporters last month, Gen. John Nicholson, the U.S. top commander in Afghanistan, said the U.S. would support another government cease-fire but would remain vigilant. NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said on Twitter he supports Ghani’s announcement and encouraged the Taliban to demonstrate their concern for Afghans by respecting it.

In July, American diplomats, in a reversal of policy in Afghanistan that favored talks between the Taliban and the Kabul government, opened direct talks with Taliban representatives, according to reports. Insurgents also recently sent delegations to Uzbekistan and Indonesia to discuss peace prospects.

USS Reagan drills with Japan in Philippine Sea

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The USS Ronald Reagan aircraft carrier kicked off its second patrol of the year by training with Japan in the Philippine Sea.

The nation’s only forward-deployed carrier — which departed Yokosuka on Tuesday with the guided-missile destroyer USS Milius and guided-missile cruiser USS Antietam — had been at its homeport since wrapping up spring pa-

trols on July 24. However, the carrier and other ships in its strike group returned to sea for several days to avoid a pair of typhoons on July 28 and Aug. 9.

On Tuesday, personnel from the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force destroyer JS Kirishima came aboard the Ronald Reagan and the Antietam for an “air defense exercise, communication evolutions and ... support for aircraft squadrons embarked aboard the aircraft carrier,” a Navy statement said.

They also worked to enhance the way the U.S. and Japan services work together and to “improve tactical skills of both maritime forces,” it added. A Navy photo shows a sailor and JMSDF member working together Wednesday during a live-fire exercise aboard the Antietam.

It is unclear how long the fall deployment will last; Navy officials do not comment on scheduling for security reasons. However, the Ronald Reagan’s previous two months at sea

proved to be one of its shorter patrols in recent years.

“We like to operate when we need to and where we need to,” Task Force 70 commander Rear Adm. Karl Thomas told reporters during the carrier’s coming-home celebration late last month. “We don’t talk about future deployments, but the amount of time we were out allowed us to prepare and to train and to conduct exercises.”

Those included Malabar drills in June with India and Japan.

US Marine who went overboard identified

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

A Marine missing since Aug. 9 after going overboard an amphibious assault ship near the Philippines has been identified and declared dead.

The search for Cpl. Jonathan Currier began following a “Marine overboard” call about 9:40 that morning while the USS Essex was sailing through the Sulu Sea west of the island nation.

“Our hearts go out to the Currier family,” Col. Chandler Nelms, 13th Marine Expeditionary Force commander, said in a statement issued Saturday. “Cpl. Currier’s loss is felt by our entire [Amphibious Ready Group/MEU] family, and he will not be forgotten.”

The Marines, Navy and Coast Guard joined Philippine vessels in an extensive search covering more than 13,000 square nautical miles that included more than 110 sorties and 300 flight hours, the statement said.

Currier’s body was not found, and the search ended on Aug. 13. The circumstances around the disappearance are under investigation, according to the statement.

Currier was a CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter crew chief who enlisted in 2015, the statement said. He completed boot camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island and later graduated from the School of Infantry at Camp Lejeune, N.C.; the Aviation and A&C School in Pensacola, Fla.; and the Center for Naval Aviation Training in Jacksonville, N.C.

Currier was later assigned to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 361 at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., the statement said. At the time of his disappearance, he was deployed with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 166 Reinforced with the 13th MEU on the Essex.

New USAF dress blues may draw on service’s heritage

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

The Air Force may follow suit with the Army by adopting a dress uniform that reflects its history.

Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Kaleth Wright told airmen at a town hall in England earlier this month that changes were coming to the Air Force dress blues.

More recently, the service’s top enlisted leader said the Air Force would like to “get back to a little more heritage on jacket,” according to a report in *Air Force Times*.

Air Force spokesman Senior Master Sgt. Harry Kibbe said on Friday that Wright is interested in a service dress uniform that looks back at the past. But, he added, no decisions have been made, nor has a uniform board been convened. And there’s no

timeline for any changes.

At the town hall at Royal Air Force Lakenheath on Aug. 1, Wright said that once the Air Force adopts the Army’s operational camouflage pattern, changes to the female uniform are next and then dress blues.

Approval of a new uniform design would be the first update to the Air Force’s service dress uniform in decades.

The Army, meanwhile, is looking at whether to bring back the World War II-era “pinks and greens” service uniform.

No final decision has been made on whether to roll out the new Army uniform, Army officials said this summer. More than 200 soldiers from the Northeast Recruiting Battalion are to test-wear the prototype this fall, Marlow White, the tailor for Army uniforms, says on its company’s website.

The current working design

of the new Army uniform combines many aspects of the iconic World War II uniforms while introducing modern features, the Marlow White website says.

Airmen have long complained that the current service dress uniform looks more like corporate than military attire.

Wright shared an anecdote with Lakenheath airmen about a ceremony in Arlington, Va., where he took a picture with his military counterparts in dress uniform.

“I was like, the Coast Guard guy looks more military than me, man,” he said.

In 2006, informal feedback the Air Force Uniform Board received from airmen on the service dress uniform included “the current uniform resembles a cheesy business suit,” and “think world’s most dominating air power, not CEO.”

Battle lines form over issue of returning war bells

BY J.P. LAWRENCE
Stars and Stripes

Veterans and lawmakers from Wyoming have voiced their objections to a Pentagon plan to return church bells seized by U.S. troops more than a century ago after a battle during the Philippine-American War.

The objections come as veterans groups such as the American Legion face internal divisions over whether to support returning the bells, which some see as a war memorial and others see as a mark of shame.

Philippine nationalists viewed the war, which lasted from 1899 to 1902, as a war of independence, while the United States, which took the islands after the Spanish-American War, regarded it as an insurrection.

“These bells are memorials to American war dead and

should not be transferred to the Philippines,” Wyoming’s U.S. senators and congresswoman said in a letter published Aug. 13. “We oppose any efforts by the administration to move the bells to the Philippines without the support of Wyoming’s veterans community.”

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis recently gave notice that he would seek to return all three bells held by America — two in Cheyenne, Wyo., and one at Camp Red Cloud, South Korea — to the Philippines.

They were seized from a church after the 1902 Battle of Balangiga, in which 48 American troops were killed by Filipino rebels.

Wyoming’s congressional delegation is working on the next steps to keep the bells, said a spokeswoman for Wyoming Rep. Liz Cheney, who signed

the letter together with Sens. Mike Enzi and John Barrasso. All three are Republicans.

In July, the Veterans of Foreign Wars approved a national resolution in favor of returning the bells — a move that was crucial for Mattis’ approval, said Sonny Busa, a Filipino-American Army veteran.

The resolution was adopted thanks to the efforts of members of VFW posts in the Philippines, said Dennis Wright, a retired Navy captain and member of VFW Post 2485, near what used to be Clark Air Base.

The next step, said Wright, who is also a member of the American Legion, is to submit a resolution at the American Legion’s weeklong national convention beginning Friday in favor of returning the bells.

Brennan pledges to fight back

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Former CIA Director John Brennan said Sunday that he is considering taking legal action to try to prevent President Donald Trump from stripping other current and former officials' security clearances.

Speaking on NBC's "Meet the Press," Brennan said he's been contacted by a number of lawyers about the possibility of an injunction in the wake of Trump's move to revoke his clearance and threaten nine others who have been critical of the president or are connected to the Russia probe.

"If my clearances and my reputation as I'm being pulled through the mud now, if that's the price we're going to pay to prevent Donald Trump from doing this against other people, to me it's a small price to pay," Brennan said. "So I am going to do whatever I can personally to try to prevent these abuses in the future. And if it means going to court, I will do that."

Brennan, who served in President Barack Obama's administration, said that while he'll fight on behalf of his former CIA colleagues, it's also up to Congress to put aside politics and step in. "This is the time that your country is going to rely on you, not to do what is best for your party but what is best for the country," he said.

Trump yanked Brennan's security clearance last week, saying he felt he had to do "something" about the "rigged" probe of Russian election interference. He has said he may do the same for nine others, including a Justice Department official whose wife worked for the firm involved in producing a dossier on Trump's ties to Russia.

An executive order signed in 1995 by President Bill Clinton lays out the process for approving security clearances and describes a detailed revocation and appeal procedure.

Former Obama-era CIA Director Leon Panetta, who also served as defense secretary, said Sunday that Trump must abide

by the executive order unless he decides to change or cancel it. Speaking on CBS' "Face the Nation," he said Trump's decision to revoke Brennan's clearance raises questions about whether he followed due process.

Brennan's legal warning came as other officials joined the growing chorus of critics — now more than 75 intelligence officials — denouncing Trump's security clearance threats, saying they have a right to express their views on national security issues without fear of punishment.

Retired Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff under George W. Bush and Obama, likened it to President Richard Nixon's use of a political enemies list.

Mullen told "Fox News Sunday" that while he doesn't agree with Brennan's decision to criticize the president, the former CIA director has the right to freedom of speech unless he's revealing classified information.

Bishop defends Catholic Church of present day

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The bishop of Pittsburgh's Roman Catholic diocese pushed back against a call for his resignation and said the diocese has "followed every single step" needed for responsible action after allegations of child sexual abuse.

Bishop David Zubik spoke Sunday on ABC's "This Week" following the Tuesday release of a landmark report detailing widespread child sexual abuse in six Pennsylvania Roman Catholic dioceses. The report accused Zubik of not reporting credible allegations.

Zubik said he can understand the rage people have reading the report and "I feel that rage, too." But he said that since he became the bishop in 2007, "we have followed every single step that we needed to follow to be responsible in our response to the victims."

Officials have, he said, listened to victims "very carefully," removed priests from dioceses, turned allegations over to appropriate district attorneys, let an independent review board look at whether a return to ministry is warranted and, finally, informed parishioners of the diocese's actions.

"The church of Pittsburgh today is not the church that's described in the grand jury report," he said.

The Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests called for Zubik to step down and for an end to donations "until he steps down or takes proven steps that protect kids."

Asked about an allegation in the report that an alleged victim was told after a meeting with Zubik that the diocese would pay for college tuition and counseling in exchange for his silence, Zubik said the allegation was made after the person accused of abuse had died, and the diocese has decided since 2002 "not to do any confidentiality agreements."

"But we needed to be able to assert whether or not the alleged behavior did in fact occur," he said. "And that was part of the discussion that took place in that particular case."

Trump: White House lawyer no 'RAT'

Associated Press

BRIDGEWATER, N.J. — President Donald Trump insisted Sunday that White House lawyer Don McGahn isn't "a John Dean type RAT," making reference to the Watergate-era White House attorney who turned on Richard Nixon.

Trump, in a series of angry tweets, blasted a New York Times story reporting that McGahn has been cooperating extensively with the special counsel team investigating Russian election meddling and potential collusion with Trump's Republican campaign.

"The failing @nytimes wrote a Fake piece today implying that because White House Counsel Don McGahn was giving hours of testimony to the Special Counsel, he must be a John Dean type RAT," Trump wrote, misspelling the word "counsel," as he often does. "But I allowed him and all others to testify — I

didn't have to. I have nothing to hide. ..."

The New York Times said in a tweet that it stands by the story.

Trump's original legal team had encouraged McGahn and other White House officials to cooperate with special counsel Robert Mueller, and McGahn spent hours in interviews.

Trump's personal attorney, Rudy Giuliani, said in an appearance on NBC's "Meet the Press" that Trump didn't raise executive privilege or attorney-client privilege during those interviews because his team believed — he says now, wrongly — that fully participating would be the fastest way to bring the investigation to a close.

"The president encouraged him to testify, is happy that he did, is quite secure that there is nothing in the testimony that will hurt the president," Giuliani said.

McGahn's attorney, William

Burck, added in a statement: "President Trump, through counsel, declined to assert any privilege over Mr. McGahn's testimony, so Mr. McGahn answered the Special Counsel team's questions fulsomely and honestly, as any person interviewed by federal investigators must."

Dean was White House counsel for Nixon, a Republican, during the Watergate scandal. He ultimately cooperated with prosecutors and helped bring down the Nixon presidency, though he served a prison term for obstruction of justice.

Dean, a frequent critic of the president, tweeted Saturday night in response to the Times story that, "Trump, a total incompetent, is bungling and botching his handling of Russia-gate. Fate is never kind to bunglers and/or botchers! Unlike Nixon, however, Trump won't leave willingly or graciously."

Trump's approach to China gets more confrontational

The Washington Post

BRIDGEWATER, N.J. — After 18 months of treating North Korea as the top national security threat, President Donald Trump has increasingly turned his attention to China, taking a more confrontational approach that experts said shows a risky shift in U.S. policy.

From an escalating trade war to a new defense budget that counters Chinese maritime expansion, the Trump administration has taken aim at the East Asian power in a contest of wills that has led to a growing consensus in Beijing that the United States is seeking to contain China's rise.

Trump's rhetoric has grown sharper since last year, when he attempted to strike a rapport with his "good friend" President Xi Jinping. Trump recently cited the Chinese military as the rationale for creating a new Space Force at the Pentagon, and in a tweet on Saturday he injected China into the specter of foreign influence of U.S. elections.

"All of the fools that are so focused on looking only at Russia should start also looking in another direction, China," the president wrote, without offering evidence of any Chinese conspiracy.

Analysts said the rise in hostility suggests that Trump and his advisers have come to view the communist nation as a malign power and direct competitor and adversary whose expanding influence must be blunted through more extreme countermeasures.

But analysts said the Trump administration has yet to articulate a clear strategy to deal with China even as it signals a sharp departure from the approach of previous administrations. President Barack Obama

sought to cooperate with Beijing on major global initiatives, such as the Paris climate accord and the Iran nuclear deal, as a way to manage China's growth and encourage it to act more responsibly in the international system.

Trump has pulled the United States out of both of those pacts.

"I do not see very many issues this administration is trying to work with China on," said Bonnie Glaser, a China analyst at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. "The effort to come up with new things where our interests converge has been abandoned. I think this administration is in agreement that China is a competitor, and the effort here is really focused on how we have a more effective competitive strategy with China."

Trump had talked tough on China throughout his campaign, but he pulled back after taking office and inviting Xi to his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida in the spring of 2017. The president declined to follow through on threats to label China a "currency manipulator" as he sought to enlist Beijing's help in his international pressure campaign on North Korea.

But the president has soured on Beijing as his bid to force Pyongyang to live up to commitments made with leader Kim Jong Un in a nuclear summit in Singapore has faltered. As Trump's relationship with Kim has appeared to enter an uneasy detente, analysts suggested the president sees China as a convenient political foil to juice his domestic political base.

A Chinese delegation is scheduled to visit Washington this week for lower-level trade talks.

ICE agents detain spouse of woman about to give birth

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A California woman said Saturday that she had to drive herself to the hospital and give birth without her husband after he was detained by immigration agents.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials said the man was detained because he was wanted on an outstanding arrest warrant in a homicide case in Mexico.

Maria del Carmen Venegas said she and her husband, Joel Arrona Lara, were driving to the hospital Wednesday when they stopped for gas in San Bernardino, just east of Los Angeles.

Surveillance footage shows two vehicles immediately flank the couple's van after they pulled into the gas station. Agents with ICE questioned the couple and asked for identification, Venegas said.

Venegas, 32, said she provided hers but that Arrona had left his at home in their rush to the hospital. The surveillance footage shows the agents handcuff-

ing Arrona, 35, and taking him away, leaving a sobbing Venegas alone at the gas station.

Venegas said she drove herself to the hospital for a scheduled cesarean section for the birth of her fifth child.

Venegas said she and her husband came to the U.S. 12 years ago from the city of Leon in the central Mexican state of Guanajuato. They do not have legal authorization to live in the U.S.; all five of their children are U.S. citizens, she said.

Venegas said her husband is a hard worker and the sole provider for the family.

In a statement issued Saturday afternoon, Immigration and Custom Enforcement said Arrona "was brought to ICE's attention due to an outstanding warrant issued for his arrest in Mexico on homicide charges," spokeswoman Lori Haley said.

ICE said agents with the agency's Fugitive Operations Team detained Arrona on Wednesday and that he remained in custody pending removal proceedings.

Legislative aide punished for Putin portrait prank

Associated Press

DENVER — An adviser to a Democratic legislative leader in Colorado has been punished for helping a progressive group put a picture of Russian President Vladimir Putin on brief display at the state capitol building near a spot reserved for a portrait of President Donald Trump.

The prank, which made international news, happened in late July after reports that Republicans hadn't raised the \$10,000 needed to commission a presidential portrait.

Aide Katie March used her security badge to allow a member of ProgressNow Colorado into the capitol with the picture of Putin, KUSA-TV reported. A tour guide removed it soon after a Democratic state senator tweeted a picture.

House Speaker Crisanta Duran, of Denver, said March's actions were "not sanctioned by the House leadership office."

She "has been spoken to by State Patrol and our office, and disciplinary action has been taken," Duran said.

March apologized.

"I saw this as a harmless prank but didn't think through the potential impact of my actions on our building security," March said in a written statement. "I sincerely apologize to my colleagues and to State Patrol for my actions."

Soon after, Republicans raised the money needed for the Trump portrait.

March also lost the credentials that allowed her to enter the capitol without going through security, Duran said.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Grandmother bruised in attack by an elk

AZ PHOENIX — An 83-year-old northern Arizona woman said a mother elk left her with deep bruises and lacerations after she tried to guide the mother's calf out of her yard.

Jeri Longenbaugh said she's used to seeing elk around her Payson home and didn't think she had anything to fear Friday when she opened the front gate of her yard to let the elk calf out.

Longenbaugh told KNXV-TV that the mother elk trampled her head and stomped all over her body. One wound on the former Marine and grandmother's leg required 17 stitches. Doctors told her that it was a miracle that the elk didn't break any bones.

UPS says students' lost exams found

FL WEST PALM BEACH — About 200 Florida high school students briefly thought they may have to retake tests after learning that the United Parcel Service lost a box containing college credit exams they took last spring.

But the Palm Beach Post reported UPS alerted officials on Thursday that the missing box was found and is being sent to the University of Cambridge in England to be scored.

French fries change sparks global frenzy

ME WATERVILLE — A Maine restaurant said news about the anger surrounding a change in its french fries has reached people all over the world.

Bolley's Famous Franks co-owner Leslie Parsons told the Kennebec Journal a newspaper in China wanted to try its

fries and it received a call from people representing TV chef Rachael Ray.

The Journal had reported the Waterville restaurant faced threats of violence when it changed from crinkle-cut to straight-cut fries in June.

Parsons said the change was a financial decision because crinkle-cut fries required special blades that needed to be bought monthly. She said many people felt the new owners were changing tradition at Bolley's, which had served crinkle-cut fries since it opened in 1962.

Chicken fat spill greases road

DE DOVER — A slam on the brakes sent chicken fat spilling onto a Delaware road, shutting down the slickened lanes for nearly two hours.

Delaware State Police Sgt. Richard Bratz told the News Journal that the tractor-trailer that hit the brakes at a light Wednesday had a tarp covering the fowl fat. With the sudden motion, the cargo overflowed, pouring over the sides of the truck and onto the asphalt.

Man steals seafood, beer from restaurant

RI NORTH KINGSTOWN — Police said a hungry burglar broke into a Rhode Island restaurant and made off with seafood and beer.

Authorities said the theft happened at Oak Hill Tavern in North Kingstown.

Surveillance photos captured the man stealing two cases of frozen shrimp, one case of frozen scallops and the beer.

Plane narrowly misses van crossing runway

MO SPRINGFIELD — A jetliner taking off

narrowly missed hitting an airport van that crossed a runway to go to an employee barbecue.

The Envoy Air jet, with 50 passengers and three crewmembers aboard, was taking off June 27 from Missouri's Springfield-Branson National Airport. Video shows the van cleared the jet's path with seconds to spare.

A report obtained by the Springfield News-Leader shows the van's driver said he decided to cross the runway to make the barbecue in time. He said a ground controller had cleared him to cross Runway 14, but halfway across he saw the plane coming down the runway.

Police: Man stole iPhone from boy, 8

NY NEW YORK — New York City police are searching for a man who they said stole an iPhone from an 8-year-old boy.

WABC-TV reported the boy was walking back from camp recently when the suspect followed him. Police said the suspect walked into the boy's apartment complex, threatened the child and took his phone.

Authorities have released surveillance images of the suspect.

Thief steals car as woman stops for gas

CT WOLCOTT — Police in Connecticut said a thief stole a woman's car as she prepared to pump gas.

The theft happened at a Cumberland Farms in Wolcott last week. Surveillance video shows the suspect leaving another vehicle as the victim gets out of her car to pump gas. The suspect got into the car and drove away.

The victim grabbed onto the passenger door and was dragged before she fell to the ground.

Authorities said the woman suffered minor injuries.

Famed Hearst Castle pool being filled again

CA SAN SIMEON — Visitors to Hearst Castle on the central California coast will soon be able to see its extravagant Neptune Pool full of water again.

State parks officials said they refilled the 345,000-gallon pool, which was drained in 2014 after cracks caused it to leak up to 5,000 gallons a day.

Repairs included replacing thousands of white marble and green serpentine tiles.

The Neptune Pool is one of the signature elements of the palatial home that media mogul William Randolph Hearst built on ranch land overlooking the Pacific and now draws up to a million visitors annually.

80,000 gallons of sewage pollutes inlet

WA BREMERTON — Health officials warned the public to avoid contact with the water of Sinclair Inlet near Bremerton after 80,000 gallons of sewage spilled from Naval Base Kitsap.

The Kitsap Public Health District said the advisory will remain in effect until Aug. 21.

An initial notice from the district attributed the spill to the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, but shipyard spokesman J.C. Mathews said that was incorrect, and that the spill originated at the Navy base. The Washington Department of Ecology confirmed that.

No information about the cause of the spill was immediately released. A spokesman for Naval Base Kitsap did not immediately return a message seeking comment.

From wire reports

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Luck, RG3 rooting for each other's return

Associated Press

WESTFIELD, Ind. — Andrew Luck and Robert Griffin III spent most of their football careers going head to head.

The two high-profile Texas prep stars were both recruited by Stanford, finished one-two in the 2011 Heisman Trophy race, went first and second in the 2012 NFL Draft and were the top two vote-getters in the NFL's Offensive Rookie of the Year balloting.

Now, the 28-year-old quarterbacks find themselves in an odd place — rooting for one another's comebacks.

"You know it seems like the combine was just yesterday," Griffin said after the first of two joint practices on the final weekend of training camp.

"He's always going to be the geeky guy and I'm always going to be the guy who wears the goofy socks."

Maybe those sentiments sound strange coming from two guys who were supposed to join the long list of memorable rivals.

But fate, as it sometimes does, changed everything.

Instead of becoming fierce foes, Griffin and Luck developed a mutual admiration for each other's work. They respect one another so much that Luck even took a moment during a brief stoppage at practice to jog over and give Griffin a hug.

"He's a really good guy. He's a Texas guy, so we have some links there," Luck said last week. "I got to know him at the Heisman and then the combine and draft. I've always been a big fan. Our families got to know each other a fair bit. I'm excited to see him."

Much has changed since these two last threw passes on the same field, six years ago in one of the few highly anticipated preseason games, pitting the seemingly can't-miss prospects.

Luck was considered the polished, establishment guy, who learned the game from his NFL-playing father, who was groomed in Stanford's pro-style offense had a resume that resembled Peyton Manning's.

Griffin was the flashy new guy with plenty of upside, legs that were supposed to be as difficult to stop as his arm, who could make any offense high-octane and who took home four of college football's most prized trophies in 2011.

Both began with a bang.

Luck led the Colts to the playoffs each of his first three seasons, made the Pro Bowl each year and helped lead the Colts one step deeper in the playoffs each successive year, culminating with an AFC championship game appearance following the 2014 season.

Griffin countered by leading the Redskins to their first playoff appearance in five years, drawing praise from President Barack Obama and making the Pro Bowl as a rookie.

Then things suddenly went awry.

Griffin sprained a ligament in his right knee in December 2012, but was cleared by doctors in time to return for the final two regular-season games and the playoff game against Seattle. During the fourth quarter of the loss to the Seahawks, Griffin's knee gave out and he wound up needing surgery for two torn ligaments and a torn meniscus.

"I don't think about the past because otherwise I can't stay in the present," Griffin said. "I'm a football player. If they tell me I can go, I'm going to go."

He was never the same. Since starting 9-7, he is just 6-19 as a starter.

Griffin lost the starting spot in Washington three times over the next three seasons and finally signed with Cleveland in 2016, where he spent most of the season on in-

jured reserve with a fractured bone in his left shoulder. He still holds the distinction as the most recent starting quarterback to lead the Browns to a victory, on Dec. 24, 2016.

The Browns released Griffin in March 2017 — before he collected a \$750,000 roster bonus — and he was out of football all of last season.

"It was hard, very hard," Griffin said. "But the Ravens gave me an opportunity and I'm here to make the most of this opportunity."

Luck, meanwhile, dealt with other obstacles.

He injured his right shoulder in the third game of the 2015 season, ending a starting streak of 57 consecutive games.

Luck finished his fourth pro season on injured reserve with a lacerated kidney, played through the continual pain in his right shoulder in 2016 then opted for surgery on a partially torn labrum in January 2017. The recovery cost him all of last season.

The Colts missed the playoffs all three of those years and now he's finally back, looking to find his pre-surgery form.

Luck continued lining up behind center for the second joint practice Saturday and will likely do so for more than a quarter in Monday night's game.

Griffin, meanwhile, is trying to restart his career by winning a job behind Super Bowl-winning quarterback Joe Flacco and first-round draft pick and Heisman winner Lamar Jackson, meaning Griffin and Luck could be watching each other's comebacks.

"I'm always root for quarterbacks," Griffin said. "I really hope he (Luck) comes back and not just to the level he was before but to the level the Colts expect."

McCown: Jets' rookie Darnold one of most impressive he's seen

Associated Press

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. — Josh McCown has seen many rookies step into the white-hot spotlight of the NFL and struggle.

The veteran New York Jets quarterback has also watched some youngsters thrive in the pressure, so he could be considered a bit of an expert on the topic.

That's why it says a lot when McCown raves about Sam Darnold, the No. 3 overall pick

who's considered the future of the franchise.

"I don't want to put any undue expectations on him, but I've been very impressed with him, I'll be honest with you," the 39-year-old McCown said after practice Saturday.

"Of any kind of rookie player I've been around, he's been impressive how he's handled information from the classroom and then to take it to the (practice) field and then take it to the game, he's done just an excellent job of that."

Darnold is competing with McCown and Teddy Bridgewater for the starting job, and the Jets are giving their prized rookie every opportunity to be under center when New York opens the regular season at Detroit on Sept. 10.

The 21-year-old former USC star had a terrific debut in the preseason opener against Atlanta and had an up-and-down performance in his first NFL start last Thursday at Washington. Darnold went 8 of 11 for 62 yards with an interception and

was sacked twice against the Redskins.

"He's been impressive," McCown said. "It's a credit to his character that he has put the time in and we've just got to keep going and keep growing, but so far (he's) one of the most impressive guys as a rookie that I've been around. ... Like when Anquan Boldin came on the scene, he just kind of exploded years ago."

"He's got kind of that same ability to operate like he's been here before."

Gordon 'humbly' returns to Browns

BY TOM WITHERS
Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Josh Gordon kept his word and “humbly” returned to the Cleveland Browns.

All they can do is hope he stays clean.

The former Pro Bowl wide receiver, who has battled drug and alcohol dependence for much of his life, Saturday ended an extended absence from training camp to deal with his health and returned to the team.

Gordon has missed most of the past four seasons because of numerous violations of the NFL's substance-abuse policy, derailing a promising career.

He's back, but the Browns can't guarantee it will last.

“I'm confident that he's here and I think that's the most important part,” coach Hue Jackson said Saturday. “How long he stays, only Josh knows that, but I think he's in a much better place. ... I never lost trust in him.”

Gordon stepped away to focus on his health just before camp opened last month. He remained in contact with Jackson and a few teammates and promised to come back when he felt ready.

The 27-year-old posted a statement on Twitter addressed to “Cleveland Browns and NFL family,” saying it was time.

“I took the time needed to ensure my overall mental and physical health,” Gordon said. “This has by no means been an easy road and I'm extremely grateful to have all of you in my life. As I humbly return to being a member of this team with an opportunity to get back to playing this game I love, I realize in order for me to reach my full potential my primary focus must remain on my sobriety and mental well-being.

“Let's get to work! Much love, JG.”

Kurt Busch upstages brother, snaps 58-race winless streak

BY JENNA FRYER
Associated Press

BRISTOL, Tenn. — Kurt Busch stole the spotlight from his younger brother Saturday night at Bristol Motor Speedway to snap a 58-race winless streak and grab an overdue short track victory.

Busch won for the first time this season — first since the 2017 season-opening Daytona 500 — but it was his sixth victory on the 0.533-mile bullring he once dominated. Busch once won three consecutive times on the Tennessee track and was considered the best in the business on the concrete oval.

Then his younger brother learned his way around the place, and Kyle Busch became the master of the track.

Kyle Busch has seven Cup wins at Bristol, 21 combined across NASCAR's national series. He's so good that he chose the song “All I Do Is Win” by D.J. Khaled to play as he was introduced before the race. The crowd responded with a thunderous jeering, and Kyle Busch's eventful evening was off to a roaring start.

He triggered a 15-car accident just two laps into the race, fell two laps off the pace, came back to race Martin Truex Jr. for second, and moved Truex out the way late in the race. His late spin set up the final restart that helped Kurt Busch seal the victory.

A frustrated Truex kicked his car in anger after the incident, and as Kyle Busch was tending to his wounded race car, older brother Kurt battled Stewart-Haas Racing teammate Clint Bowyer for the lead. Kurt Busch was relentless on the restart and got his Ford to the front, then came Kyle Busch's spin for the ninth caution.

Kurt Busch had a good restart and Kyle Larson, on fresher tires, desperately tried to catch him. Kurt Busch held him off and Larson, winner of the Xfinity Series race Friday

night, finished second in his bid for the Bristol sweep.

The victory was the 30th of Kurt Busch's career and he and Kyle Busch became the only brothers in Cup history with 30 wins each. It was Kurt Busch's first Bristol victory since 2006. Kyle Busch ranks fifth on Bristol's career list, while Kurt Busch broke a tie with Jeff Gordon for sixth.

“I love this place,” Kurt Busch said. “I always wanted to get to 30 [wins]. This is a big win for me. Early on before I even won my first race I said, ‘Man, if I could win 30 races.’”

The ninth driver to win this season, Kurt Busch earned a spot in the 16-driver playoff field.

“It's all about winning,” he said. “I wasn't worried about not making the playoffs, so we could kind of treat these races coming up as free-for-alls, and we're just going to keep going after it.”

The victory was the 13th for Stewart-Haas Racing since it joined Ford last season, and the 100th Cup victory for the Fusion.

Kyle Busch wound up 20th. He led the first 70 laps of the Xfinity Series race but wrecked with a flat tire, so his Bristol weekend was a bust.

“We probably finished where we should have anyways, as torn up as our race car is,” said Kyle Busch, who also accepted fault for the contact with Truex. “I feel terrible about that. Obviously I just misjudged it by a little bit — four inches, six inches, whatever — I didn't think I was next to him yet and I clipped him and sent him for a whale of a ride.”

Other events from an action-packed Bristol race:

Locked in: Although they have yet to win a Cup race this season, Larson, Ryan Blaney and Brad Keselowski scored enough points to clinch berths in the playoffs. There are two races remaining before the playoffs begin.

Larson thought he'd get in via a victory at Bristol, where he's finished second five times between Cup and Xfinity. He lost four races to Kyle Busch, now one to Kurt Busch.

“Probably the most frustrating Bristol race I've had just because I never really felt like I had a shot to win,” Larson said.

Still seeking a Bristol win: Truex Jr. has never won on a short track and felt he had a chance to snap that streak at Bristol.

He was running second behind Bowyer when Kyle Busch tapped Truex's rear bumper to cause Truex to wreck. Truex was so angry, he threw pieces of equipment to the ground and gave the side of his Toyota a hard kick.

“I just got hit in the left rear, pretty simple,” Truex said. “This place has been so hard on us. I can't even explain to you how good we've run here in the past three or four years and crap like this happens every single time. It's like just one thing after another.”

Truex was also frustrated with himself for not moving Bowyer out of his way and taking the lead. Had he done that, he wouldn't have been in position for Busch to make contact with him.

“I should've knocked [Bowyer's] butt out of the way because he held me up for 15-20 laps and burnt my front tires off screwing with him,” Truex said. “Played too nice and got the crappy end of the stick.”

They said it: “If we could race here every Saturday and Sunday, our grandstands would be packed, our TV ratings would be very high. Let's build more Bristols,” said runner-up Kyle Larson.

Up next: The Cup Series is off next weekend and races again Sept. 2 in the Southern 500 at Darlington Raceway in South Carolina. Denny Hamlin won last year's race.

Roundup

A's beat Astros, move into tie atop AL West

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — The Oakland Athletics were an average team two months ago, a dozen games behind the Houston Astros and closer to the bottom of the AL West than the top.

Well, look at the A's now.

Trevor Cahill pitched one-hit ball for seven shutout innings and the Athletics kept up their unlikely turnaround, tying Houston for the division lead by beating the Astros 7-1 Saturday.

"It's been a nice run for sure," A's manager Bob Melvin said.

Khris Davis, Matt Olson, Josh Phegley and Stephen Piscotty each hit two of Oakland's team record-tying eight doubles as the A's won for the sixth time in seven games.

The Athletics trailed the defending World Series champion Astros by 12 games following play on June 18, having just reached the .500 mark, and were still 10 behind on July 10.

Houston has lost seven of eight and dropped 12 of 19 since owning a six-game lead on July 24. The next day, reigning AL MVP Jose Altuve went on the disabled list with knee trouble, and the star second baseman is still out.

Cahill (5-2) allowed only an infield single by Yuli Gurriel in the second inning. The right-hander struck out seven, walked one and retired 14 straight batters during one stretch.

Cahill, who was on the disabled list in June because of an Achilles injury, improved to 4-0 over his past six starts, his longest winning streak in five years. He also has won 10 decisions in a row at the Coliseum.

"He dominated us," Astros manager A.J. Hinch said. "He was clearly doing whatever he wanted with the ball. When they got the lead he pitched pretty aggressively and we chased. He controlled the game."

Tony Kemp homered in the ninth for Houston's only other hit.

Rockies 5, Braves 3 (10): Colorado struck for three runs with two outs in the ninth inning, and then DJ LeMahieu homered over to center field in the 10th to help beat host Atlanta.

Fill-in closer A.J. Minter came in with a 3-0 lead to begin the ninth and retired the first two Colorado batters. But the Rockies followed with four straight hits off him, including a two-run double by Ian Desmond and a tying single by pinch-hitter Gerardo Parra.

LeMahieu hit his 10th homer with one out in the 10th off Luke Jackson (1-1). Carlos Gonzalez followed with a double and scored on Nolan Arenado's single.

The Rockies have won the first three games of the four-game series to stay close to NL West-leading Arizona. The NL East-leading Braves remained one-half game ahead of second-place Philadelphia.

Yankees 11, Blue Jays 6: Giancarlo Stanton hit one of host New York's four homers, and Luis Severino struck out eight while pitching into the sixth inning.

Didi Gregorius, Miguel Andujar and Greg Bird also connected as New York moved 31 games over .500, matching a season high. Andujar had three hits and three RBIs, and Gregorius also drove in three runs.

Cardinals 7, Brewers 2: Marcell Ozuna homered, Miles Mikolas tossed six effective innings and host St. Louis beat Milwaukee to slide into position for the second NL wild card.

The Cardinals have won 10 of their last 11 and moved a half-game ahead of the Brewers, who have lost six of eight, and within four of the first-place Chicago Cubs in the NL Central.

Mets 3, Phillies 1: At Philadelphia, New York ace Jacob deGrom pitched his first complete game of the season and lowered his major league-leading ERA to 1.71.

DeGrom (8-7) allowed only an unearned run, the result of his own error. He struck out

nine and walked none.

Philadelphia's Jake Arrieta (9-8) allowed one run and four hits in six strong innings.

Red Sox 5, Rays 2: David Price pitched seven solid innings, J.D. Martinez hit his major league-leading 38th homer, and host Boston jumped to a quick lead to beat Tampa Bay for its 17th victory in 20 games.

Mitch Moreland added an RBI double during Boston's four-run first inning. The Red Sox improved to a season-high 52 games over .500 and maintained their 10½-game lead over second-place New York in the AL East.

Mariners 5, Dodgers 4 (10): Cameron Maybin scored in the 10th inning when Los Angeles' Dylan Floro was called for a balk, giving host Seattle the win.

The Mariners loaded the bases with one out, and with a one-strike count on Kyle Seager, Floro initiated his delivery before stepping off the mound. First base umpire Andy Fletcher called him for the game-ending balk. There was little argument from Floro, although Los Angeles manager Dave Roberts sought an explanation as Seattle celebrated the odd victory.

Angels 11, Rangers 7: Albert Pujols drove in a season-high four runs, Shohei Ohtani hit a three-run homer and visiting Los Angeles beat Texas on a rainy night.

Pujols hit a solo home run in the second inning and a two-run single in the third against Rangers starter Martin Perez. He singled home another run in the seventh against losing pitcher Eddie Butler (2-3) for a 7-6 lead.

Marlins 7, Nationals 5 (10): Isaac Galloway hit a two-run single in the 10th inning, JT Riddle homered and drove in four runs and visiting Miami beat Washington.

The Nationals intentionally walked Riddle to load the bases with two outs in the 10th. Galloway delivered with a hit to center off Koda Glover (0-2).

Both teams scored in the ninth. Riddle's drive into the right-field stands off Nationals reliever Justin Miller put Miami up 5-4. Washington's Adam Eaton tied it with a homer off Drew Steckenrider leading off the bottom of the inning.

Orioles 4, Indians 2: Alex Cobb pitched a five-hitter for his first complete game in five years, and Baltimore snapped host Cleveland's six-game winning streak.

Cobb (4-15), the major league leader in losses, struck out three and walked one in his fourth career complete game. The right-hander threw 100 pitches, 69 for strikes, while going the distance for the first time since Aug. 31, 2013, for Tampa Bay against Oakland.

Pirates 3, Cubs 1: Joe Musgrove cruised through seven innings, and host Pittsburgh beat Chicago to snap a five-game skid.

Pittsburgh won for the second time in eight games. The first-place Cubs had their three-game winning streak snapped.

Padres 7, Diamondbacks 6: Christian Villanueva had a walk-off pinch-hit single in the ninth inning, and host San Diego beat Arizona to end a five-game skid.

The Diamondbacks' three-game winning streak ended, and their NL West lead over the Rockies fell to one-half game.

Reds 7, Giants 1: Matt Harvey took a no-hit try into the sixth inning, Jose Peraza and Dilson Herrera backed him with home runs and host Cincinnati dominated Madison Bumgarner and San Francisco.

Royals 3, White Sox 1: Alex Gordon homered, Jorge Bonifacio had a go-ahead RBI single in the decisive sixth inning, and visiting Kansas City rallied past Chicago.

Tigers 7, Twins 5: Mikie Mahtook hit a tiebreaking three-run homer in the fifth inning, rookie Ryan Carpenter earned his first big league win and visiting Detroit beat Minnesota.