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Pompeo visit to North Korea delayed

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said Friday he has directed Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to delay a planned trip to North Korea, citing insufficient progress on denuclearization.

Trump put some blame on Beijing, saying he does not believe China is helping “because of our much tougher Trading stance.”

The surprise announcement appeared to mark a concession by the president to domestic and international concerns that his prior claims of world-altering progress on the peninsula had been strikingly premature.

“I have asked Secretary of State Mike Pompeo not to go to North Korea, at this time, because I feel we are not making sufficient progress with respect to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula,” Trump tweeted Friday, barely two months after his June meeting with the North’s Kim Jong Un in Singapore.

Trump’s comment followed a report issued Monday by the International Atomic Energy Agency outlining “grave concern” about the North’s nuclear program. It came a day after Pompeo appointed Stephen

Biegun, a senior executive with the Ford Motor Co., to be his special envoy for North Korea and said he and Biegun would visit this week.

The State Department never confirmed details of the trip, but it had been expected that Pompeo would be in Pyongyang for at least several hours Monday, according to several diplomatic sources familiar with the plan.

White House officials declined to specify what prompted Trump to call off Pompeo’s trip or what had changed since the president’s rose-colored-glasses assessments of the nuclear situation just days ago.

A senior White House official said Trump made the decision to cancel the visit Friday morning during a meeting with Pompeo, Biegun, chief of staff John Kelly and national security adviser John Bolton, who joined by phone. Intelligence and defense officials were not in the meeting, the official said, seeming to indicate that the breakdown was diplomatic in nature. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe internal deliberations.

South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-hwa has talked with Pompeo about Trump’s decision to delay Pompeo’s planned visit to North Korea because of

what he saw as insufficient progress on denuclearization.

Seoul’s Foreign Ministry said late Friday that Pompeo during the telephone conversation explained the background of the decision to Kang. The ministry says Kang and Pompeo agreed that Washington and Seoul will work to keep the momentum of dialogue alive while pursuing the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and stabilizing peace.

The State Department had no immediate comment on the administration’s decision and referred questions to the White House.

Trump laid unspecified blame on China, North Korea’s leading trade partner, which is widely believed to hold the greatest sway over Kim’s government.

The U.S. and China have been locked in a trade dispute for months, with each side ratcheting up tariffs on imports from the other country in what may be the opening salvos of a trade war.

Trump tweeted that “Pompeo looks forward to going to North Korea in the near future, most likely after our Trading relationship with China is resolved.” He added: “In the meantime I would like to send my warmest regards and respect to Chairman Kim. I look forward to seeing him soon!”

Hurricane weakens to tropical storm over Hawaii

Associated Press

HONOLULU — Federal officials said Saturday that torrential rains are now the biggest threat to Hawaii after a once-powerful hurricane that threatened the island state was downgraded to a tropical storm, and they urged people to continue to take the storm seriously.

“Today’s message to the citizens of Hawaii is don’t let your guard down,” Brock Long, administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, said during a telephone briefing in Washington.

“Tropical storms can be very dangerous, and Hawaii is not in the clear from Tropical Storm Lane at this point,” he said.

Several more days of rain are in the forecast, Long said. He said the biggest effects so far have been on transportation, due to

mudslides and other damage to the transportation infrastructure, mostly in Hawaii County on the Big Island.

“The rainfall event is not over,” Long said. “Torrential rains will be the largest threat that we see for the next 48 hours.”

The agency isn’t letting its guard down, either, Long said, adding that officials continue to “communicate very closely” with counterparts at the state and local levels.

“We are standing by to continue our support for the response and eventually the recovery efforts that are taking place,” he said.

Lane roared toward the island chain early last week as a Category 5 on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale. That meant it was likely to cause catastrophic damage with winds 157 mph or above. But

upper-level winds known as shear swiftly tore the storm apart. By late Friday, the National Weather Service said Lane had maximum sustained winds of 70 mph as it slowly twisted west about 120 miles south of Honolulu.

The outer bands of the hurricane dumped as much as 3 feet of rain in 48 hours on the mostly rural Big Island. The main town of Hilo, population 43,000, was flooded Friday with waist-high water as landslides shut down roads.

As flooding hit the Big Island, brush fires broke out in areas of Maui and Oahu susceptible to flames. Some residents in a shelter on Maui had to flee when a fire got too close, and another fire forced people from their homes.

Major accused in 'revenge porn' lawsuit

The Fayetteville Observer, N.C.

The ex-wife of a Special Forces major has filed a lawsuit that accuses him and his lover of posting embarrassing "revenge porn" photos of her online because he didn't like paying child support.

The civil lawsuit appears to be the first of its kind filed in Cumberland County, N.C., since the state enacted a revenge porn law in 2015. It says that defendants may be ordered to pay \$1,000 for each day the photos were online or \$10,000, whichever is greater. The North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts couldn't determine whether this case is the first revenge porn lawsuit in the state.

Revenge porn is also a felony, and law enforcement has prosecuted people since the law

took effect in late 2015. In this case, the ex-wife filed a report with the Fayetteville Police Department, according to her lawyer, Michael Porter. It does not appear the police have filed charges.

Elizabeth Ann Clark filed the lawsuit against her ex-husband, Army Maj. Adam Matthew Clark, who is with the 3rd Special Forces Group at Fort Bragg. Also named as a defendant is Lt. Col. Kimberly Rae Barrett, with whom Adam Clark had an affair, according to the lawsuit. Porter said Barrett is an obstetrician-gynecologist at Womack Army Medical Center.

The lawsuit also alleges libel, infliction of emotional distress, criminal conversation (having sex with a married person) and alienation of affection (stealing away someone's spouse).

The ex-wife is seeking at least \$110,000 plus attorney fees and punitive damages.

Elizabeth Clark declined an interview request through her lawyer. Adam Clark's divorce lawyer did not respond to a request for comment. Barrett did not respond to an inquiry made to her office.

According to the lawsuit, the Clarks married in 2010 and had two children.

The suit says that when Adam Clark was away for his military duties, the couple maintained their sexual relationship by exchanging adult text messages and photographs.

The relationship changed in 2016, the lawsuit says, when Adam Clark was at Fort Belvoir, Va. Elizabeth Clark began to notice that her husband "did not seem like himself," her complaint says, and "his mo-

bile device began to show his location at the opposite end of the hotel where his room was located. Additionally, his credit card charges doubled for routine expenses such as meals and entertainment."

The suit alleges Barrett also was at Fort Belvoir at the time, and that's where Adam Clark met her and "began an illicit sexual and romantic affair."

The lawsuit accuses Adam Clark and Barrett of "a coordinated campaign to harass and humiliate" the plaintiff because he was unhappy with the child support he had to pay his ex-wife. This included placing an advertisement on the Craigslist website with Elizabeth Clark's name and contact information, saying she had sexually transmitted diseases and asking for people to contact her for sexual favors.

New Futures Command HQ activated

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

AUSTIN, Texas — It could cost between \$30 and \$50 billion annually for the Army's Futures Command to work towards modernizing the service, Gen. Mark Milley, the Army's chief of staff, said Friday.

In Milley's formal remarks during an activation ceremony for the command at its new headquarters in downtown Austin, he said most of the Army is involved in today's military operations. Futures Command instead will think about tomorrow's fight.

"The only thing that is more expensive than preventing war is fighting a war," Milley said. "The only thing more expensive than fighting a war, is fighting and losing a war. This command is all about setting the United States Army up to not only win on the battlefield, but to be decisive and absolutely dominate on the battlefield so that we inflict punishment and destroy the enemy at the least cost to ourselves."

Futures Command hopes to help do that by working with technology companies, startups, academia and businesses of all sizes with ideas on how to modernize the Army and be prepared to fight forces of similar strength. The mission is to provide soldiers with the weapons and equipment

they need, when they need them and ensure success on future battlefields — all at a much faster rate than the Defense Department's acquisitions process allows now.

Milley said Futures Command would not have been formed if not for Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who announced Friday that he is discontinuing treatment for his brain cancer.

The general said he and McCain discussed the challenges of procurement about three years ago as Milley awaited confirmation as chief of staff.

"[McCain] said, 'I want you to think about how you're going to reform the Army,'" Milley recalled. "He planted that seed that we had significant challenges."

They continued the dialogue for several months and slowly their talks developed into Futures Command.

On Friday, Gen. John "Mike" Murray took the helm of the new command with the support of its highest ranking noncommissioned officer, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Crosby. Together the men unveiled the command's flag on the 17th floor of an University of Texas System office building. It is the first time that the Army has established a command in the middle of an urban center.

Ghost hunters visit WWII submarine

Galveston County (Texas) Daily News

GALVESTON, Texas — The old submarine USS Cavalla has been attracting a new kind of visitor: ghost hunters.

After hours, when all the other visitors have left, paranormal investigators have been setting up to record video and use other equipment to explore the World War II-era submarine for activity that might be considered ghostly.

The ghost hunters were at work on a recent evening, but that wasn't the first time paranormal investigations had used the museum as a hunting ground. The submarine and museum in turn uses the video images in advertising for a Halloween event it hosts every year, said Aubrey Flaherty, assistant curator at the Galveston Naval Museum.

But reaction to the investigations, which have taken over the sub for two weekends this month, has been mixed, Flaherty said.

Some people find it disrespectful to veterans and a mockery of the ships and their historical significance, she said. But the museum's staff members, some of whom are veterans of war, don't see it that way, Flaherty said.

List of Trump allies shrinking

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — On one of the worst days of his presidency, Donald Trump was chatting aboard Air Force One when the conversation took a detour into gallows humor.

Trump was returning from a rally in West Virginia just hours after two former members of his inner circle were found or pleaded guilty, when one passenger quipped that a news story would surely soon be breaking about the president fuming on board. Everyone laughed, including the president.

Despite the momentary levity, though, Trump is increasingly frustrated and isolated as the investigations that have long dogged his White House plunge into the personal territory he once declared off-limits.

One by one, the president's men have turned against him.

It was a bruising week for Trump, with a trio of men who are intimately familiar with his secrets and business dealings now cooperating with prosecutors. First, Trump's former personal attorney, Michael Cohen, implicated him in testimony about hush money payments to two women who allege affairs with him. On the same day, his former campaign chairman was found guilty on a slew of financial charges. At least Paul Manafort had nothing to say about Trump or his campaign.

But then came revelations that his longtime friend, David Pecker, the CEO of National Enquirer publisher American Media Inc., had been granted immunity from prosecution to provide information, followed by news that Trump Organization finance chief Allen Weisselberg, who had once worked for Trump's father, was cooperating as well.

There is no indication their cooperation extends beyond the scope of the Cohen probe. But for Trump — who has long demanded loyalty from those around him — the revelations have only added to long-simmering fury about the investigations that began with questions about Russian election meddling but

In speech, president says Democrats 'negative, nasty'

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — President Donald Trump sought to unite Ohio's fractious state Republican Party on Friday, bitterly complaining about "negative, nasty" Democrats and warning that the Democratic contender for governor would "destroy your state."

Trump praised the slate of Republican candidates during a fundraising dinner in the nation's premier battleground state but noticeably avoided mentioning Gov. John Kasich, one of his 2016 primary opponents and sharpest critics, who skipped the event.

A subdued Trump, who has been grappling with the defection of some longtime loyalists amid investigations into his 2016 campaign, skewered Democrat Richard Cordray "as a far-left candidate" who was "groomed by Pocahontas." That was a reprise of his insult of Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, a possible 2020 presidential challenger, over her Native American heritage.

"Cordray will destroy your state," Trump said, without going into specifics. Cordray, who led the Consumer Financial Protection

have broadened from there.

Allies wonder what Trump might do if the pressure continues to increase.

"This is a bridge too far. They are trying to undo this president," said former Trump campaign aide Sam Nunberg.

As the president exited Washington for a day trip to Ohio on Friday, a White House official said Trump was unhappy with what he perceived as disloyalty but far from melting down. Another person with knowledge of Trump's thinking said the pres-

ident continues to direct much of his ire at Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who infuriated Trump by withdrawing from special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia probe. Both people, like others, spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss private discussions.

Jeff Sessions said he wouldn't allow politics to influence him only because he doesn't understand what is happening underneath his command position," he said.

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"You have left-wing haters and radicals trying to tear down our institutions, disrespect our great American flag, demean our law enforcement — think of that, our flag, our law enforcement, ICE," Trump said. "Denigrate your history and disparage our great country, and they're (going) so far left and they're being dragged left."

Senators seek translator's summit notes

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrats on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee are asking Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to provide the panel with the translator's notes and other materials from President Donald Trump's Helsinki summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The senators have requested any cable traffic, memos, notes and policy directives related to the July summit, when Trump and Putin met privately for more than two hours with only translators present. The White House has not provided information on what was said, and even Trump's director of national intelligence, Dan Coats, has said he does not know what happened in the room.

In a letter sent to the State Department Friday morning, the Foreign Relations Committee's top Democrat, Sen. Bob Menendez, of New Jersey, and Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, of New Hampshire, said the situation requires "urgent congressional oversight."

"Russian officials have taken advantage of the lack of communication by the White House to circulate their own, possibly false, readouts of what occurred in this private meeting," the senators wrote.

Trump drew widespread criticism from Republican and Democratic leaders for his performance in Helsinki on July 16. At a joint press conference with Putin, Trump spoke favorably of the Russian leader and denied U.S. intelligence findings that Russia interfered in the 2016 election.

Trump's statements fueled calls from Democrats for testimony from the American translator who was in the private meeting. Republicans shot down the idea and in the House blocked a Democratic request to issue a subpoena. The chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Sen. Bob Corker, of Tennessee, said seeking the translator's testimony "does not seem to be to me the appropriate place for us to go."

US warns against Syria chemical arms use

Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — The U.S. has information that Syrian President Bashar Assad may use chemical weapons as he seeks to recapture one of the country's last rebel-held areas, and has told Russia that it's ready to respond with stronger military action than it has used against Assad's regime in the past.

The message was delivered by national security adviser John Bolton to his Russian counterpart, Nikolai Patrushev, at a meeting in Geneva on Thursday, according to four people familiar with the discussions, who asked not to be identified because the content of talks hasn't been publicly disclosed.

President Donald Trump has said in the past that he will punish Assad for any further use of chemical weapons, after ordering two limited strikes in similar circumstances since taking office early last year. But the latest warning is more specific, and it comes on the eve of what may be

one of the bloodiest campaigns in Syria's civil war.

Syrian forces, backed by Russian air power, are deploying around the northwestern province of Idlib. That's the only remaining area where the rebels — now dominated by jihadists from al-Qaida and other groups — have a significant presence. There are estimated to be tens of thousands of fighters there, many of them evacuated to Idlib under cease-fire arrangements as the Assad-Russia-Iran alliance gradually regained control over other parts of Syria.

That advance represented a defeat for the U.S. and its Western and Gulf allies, which have backed rebel groups throughout the seven-year war. They have now largely given up on the goal of toppling Assad, and are focusing instead on curbing Iranian influence in Syria.

The U.S.-Russian talks in Geneva also addressed topics including the possible removal of American troops from a military base on the Syria-Iraq border, or their

cooperation with Russian forces nearby, according to the people familiar with the talks. No agreement was reached on the conditions under which that could happen, they said. The U.S. also rejected a Russian proposal for oil sanctions on Iran to be suspended as part of a broader settlement in Syria, the people said.

The two previous American attacks on Syria were largely symbolic and did little damage to Assad's military capacity. In April 2017, U.S. warships in the Mediterranean Sea fired about 60 cruise missiles at a Syrian airbase which had allegedly been used during a chemical attack. A year later, the U.K. and France joined the U.S. in carrying out multiple airstrikes against government sites.

In the latter case, Defense Secretary James Mattis persuaded the president not to authorize a wider attack, two of the people familiar with the talks said. In the event of another chemical incident, Trump will not be dissuaded, they said.

Pope visits Ireland amid abuse scandal outrage

Associated Press

DUBLIN — Pope Francis arrived Saturday in Ireland, ground zero of the Catholic Church's sexual abuse crisis, with the institution under fire across the globe for its systemic failures to protect children from rapists or to punish bishops who hid the crimes.

Francis is making the first papal visit to Ireland in almost four decades, but the reception he received in Dublin was a contrast to the raucous, rock star welcome that greeted St. John Paul II in 1979. No one from the general public was on hand at the airport or the roads nearby, and only a handful of people waited to cheer him outside the Vatican residence, despite gloriously sunny weekend weather.

Aware of the lasting wounds of the abuse crisis here, Francis was expected to meet with victims during his 36-hour trip and will have "many opportunities" to speak out about abuse, the Vatican said. But neither Francis' words nor a new meet-

ing with abuse victims is likely to calm the outrage among rank-and-file Catholics following new revelations of sexual misconduct and cover-up in the United States, an ongoing crisis in Chile and prosecutions of top clerics in Australia and France.

Ireland has had one of the worst records of abuse in the world, crimes that were revealed to the deeply Catholic nation's 4.8 million people through a series of government-mandated inquiries over the past decade. The reviews concluded that thousands of children were raped or molested by priests and physically abused in church-run schools while bishops covered up for abusers.

After the Irish church atoned for its past and enacted tough new norms to fight abuse, it had looked to the pope's visit as a way to highlight a different, more caring church that understands the problems of ordinary Catholic families today.

Ousted Naval Academy professor accused of 'unprofessional conduct'

The Washington Post

The U.S. Naval Academy this month fired a tenured English professor for what officials in Annapolis, Md., described as "unprofessional conduct," including touching students without their consent and emailing them photos of himself partially clothed.

Bruce Fleming, a civilian member of the Annapolis faculty for 31 years, characterized his dismissal as part of "a revenge campaign" to silence an in-house critic. He said he was denied due process and plans to appeal.

"I do NOT apologize," he wrote in an email Friday. "Nothing I did was inappropriate."

The academy notified Fleming of the decision in an Aug. 15 letter that cited episodes in which the professor referred to some students as "right-wing extremists," touched students during class without consent and sent students photos of

himself without a shirt after being told that such communication was wrong.

Andrew Phillips, the academy's academic dean and provost, wrote in the letter that Fleming had not taken responsibility for his actions. The investigation began after a midshipman complained about Fleming's conduct.

Responding to investigators, Fleming denied in April ever calling any student a "right-wing extremist" but said it would be within his rights to do so, "especially as a joke."

He said that his class sometimes discussed sexuality in literature and as an issue within the military or on college campuses — but never inappropriately.

Regarding physical contact with students, Fleming told *The Washington Post*: "I hug a lot of students and they hug me. I am comfortable with them and they with me."

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

School suspends pole-dancing teacher

NC RAEFORD — A middle school teacher who moonlights as a pole-dance instructor was suspended by a North Carolina school district.

A spokeswoman for Hoke County's public schools didn't specify why Kandice Mason was suspended with pay pending the outcome of an investigation.

Mason told WTVD-TV that school officials saw a video of her pole dancing that she posted to her private Facebook account. She said school officials cited a policy that says employees are role models who are "responsible for their public conduct even when they are not performing their job duties."

Store employee bitten by shoplifting suspect

DE WILMINGTON — Police said a woman bit a store employee as she and two others fled a Delaware Old Navy with stolen merchandise.

A Delaware State Police release cited by news outlets said the employee tried to stop two women and one man from shoplifting Wednesday, but was unheeded. A physical altercation ensued as the suspects tried to push past, and the employee was knocked to the ground and bitten on the forehead.

The three suspects escaped with the stolen items and fled in a car.

Whale bones once on display returned to sea

HI WAILUKU — The bones of a juvenile humpback whale that were displayed in Hawaii for more than 30 years were recently returned to sea.

The whale that became beached in January 1986 on Kahoolawe — the small island near Maui — was returned to the waters off that coast in a ceremony recognizing Native Hawaiian cultural practices, The Maui News reported.

The U.S. Navy, which controlled Kahoolawe when the whale washed ashore, turned over disposal of the whale to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which handed it over to the Pacific Whale Foundation.

Principal apologizes for dress code speech

MO OAKVILLE — The principal of a suburban St. Louis high school apologized after telling girls they shouldn't display their breasts, bellies or rear-ends because it's distracting to boys.

KSDK-TV reported that Oakville High School principal Janet Kellerman told parents Thursday at an open house that it will "never happen again" and that it hurt her that she "may have hurt a student or students."

While speaking to ninth-graders, Kellerman also told boys they shouldn't wear so-called wife-beater tank tops. A Melville School District spokeswoman said the remarks were inappropriate.

Sheriff: Malnourished animals found at home

NC COLUMBIA — A North Carolina woman was arrested after authorities said they found 75 malnourished animals in her backyard.

The Virginian-Pilot reported Christy L. Edwards, 39, of Columbia was charged with animal cruelty. Tyrrell County Sheriff Darryl Liverman said

deputies visited the property after receiving a tip.

He said they found animals including chickens, donkeys, horses, goats, a pig and a turkey without food or water.

Liverman says the animals have since been checked by a veterinarian and taken to a Currituck County farm.

Man gets 30 years in jail for killing roommate

CT HARTFORD — A Connecticut man who fatally shot his roommate during a drug feud and then blew up the body with a pipe bomb to try to get rid of the evidence was sentenced to 30 years in prison.

Federal prosecutors said Christopher Miller, 43, was sentenced Wednesday for the July 2015 death of Edward Brooks.

Investigators said Miller ran a cocaine distribution operation out of his West Haven home and Brooks, 39, lived in the home and helped sell drugs. But when Miller discovered Brooks had branched out on his own, he shot him three times.

Miller and another man wrapped the body in plastic and drove it to a wooded area of Hamden, where they placed a pipe bomb underneath it.

Family sickened from meal of wild mushrooms

VA ANNANDALE — Members of a family in northern Virginia fell ill and needed hospital attention after eating a meal containing wild mushrooms picked near their apartment complex.

The Washington Post reported that they experienced vomiting and stomach pains a few hours after eating the mushrooms.

Fairfax County Fire officials said poison control and crews from the fire department scoured around the Annandale

apartment complex, finding mushrooms in a courtyard in a bid to identify them.

The mushrooms are known as "Chlorophyllum molybdites" or green spored Lepiota — also called the "vomiter."

Man caught in fight between bulls injured

MO HARVIELL — A southeast Missouri man remained hospitalized nearly two weeks after he was badly injured when he got stuck in the midst of a fight between two bulls.

Relatives told the Poplar Bluff Daily American Republic that Bob Newcomb, 75, of Harviell suffered 16 rib fractures, a collapsed lung and two fractured vertebrae on Aug. 10.

Newcomb and other relatives operate Newcomb Bucking Bulls. He was loading two bulls onto a trailer for transport when they began to fight.

200 guns, ammo, swords seized in home

IN TERRE HAUTE — Court documents said police seized more than 200 guns and more than 100,000 rounds of ammunition during a search of a Terre Haute man's house.

A probable cause affidavit filed in Vigo Superior Court said officers searching Gary Diana's home also found 100 pounds of black powder, explosives, hand and leg restraints, three bullet proof vests and a bomb vest.

The Tribune-Star reported the Diana, 55, was arrested on an allegation of intimidation after a nurse said he threatened to shoot her during a home health care visit. The nurse reported seeing hundreds of guns, knives, swords and other weapons.

From wire reports

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Brees, Rivers recall time on same team

Associated Press

COSTA MESA, Calif. — Philip Rivers and Drew Brees could have an epic sports rivalry, if only they didn't like and respect each other so much.

The ingredients are there: Brees was the San Diego Chargers' starting quarterback when they acquired the No. 4 overall pick Rivers in a draft-day trade in 2004. Rivers spent two full seasons behind Brees in a potentially combustible partnership before Brees inevitably left for the New Orleans Saints.

Since their breakup, they've become two of the most prolific and most durable quarterbacks in NFL history. The 39-year-old Brees enters the season third on the league's career passing list with 70,445 yards, while the 36-year-old Rivers is ninth with 50,348. Rivers has started all 201 of the Chargers' games after taking over in 2006, while Brees has started 202 of the Saints' 204 games in that span, including the Super Bowl in which he won a ring and an MVP award.

They could be rivals with a weird start to parallel careers. Instead, they're enduring friends who occasionally get their sons' flag football teams together for a game during the offseason in San Diego, where they both kept their homes.

When they got together again this week for two days of joint practices between the Saints and the Chargers in Orange County, they picked up right where they left off. They also reflected on that strange two-year stretch of their careers when two of the best quarterbacks of their generation shared the same locker room.

"It was a tough set of circumstances, because they drafted him in 2004 to basically take my job, right?" Brees said. "So I think everyone always tried to kind of pit us against each other. They couldn't understand how we could be friends or good teammates for one another when we were in the quarterback room, having that type of competition. But we were."

And they still are.

"In those first two years, I enjoyed working with him and

competing," Rivers said. "It worked out well for him. Shoot, he's had one heck of a run in New Orleans and won a championship. I've been able to have some longevity here with the Chargers. It is unique. Drew and I have always kept in touch. I have always pulled for him from afar."

They've both still got plenty more to do as well. They're still the unquestioned starters on two teams with realistic playoff hopes, and neither appears to be close to retirement.

Brees agreed to a two-year contract extension in March after saying he'll stay with the Saints "as long as they'll have me." He is likely to leap past Brett Favre (71,838) and then Peyton Manning (71,940) this season to become the top passer in league history, but he's more interested in building on last season, when the Saints were one missed tackle away from reaching the NFC championship game.

Rivers is coming off an outstanding year at the controls of the Chargers' prolific offense, and he has said he plans

to play at least another handful of seasons. He will continue his three-man surge up the career passing charts with fellow 2004 draftees Eli Manning and Ben Roethlisberger, but Rivers is more hopeful about extending the good feelings from last season's finish, when the Chargers looked like one of the NFL's best teams while winning nine of their final 12 games.

Brees could claim one point of pride in this non-rivalry: He has won all three of their teams' regular-season meetings. If they ever ended up across from each other in a game more important than Saturday's preseason contest in Carson, both quarterbacks would welcome another chance to get together.

"I've always had a great respect for him as a man and as a player and what he's been able to do in this league," Rivers said. "He's probably going to go down as the all-time league passer in the history of the game, so that's pretty awesome."

NFL preseason roundup

Peterson impressive in first game action with Redskins

Associated Press

LANDOVER, Md. — Adrian Peterson showed the Washington Redskins what they needed to see in his debut by rushing for 56 yards on 11 carries in a 29-17 loss to the Denver Broncos on Friday night in each team's third preseason game.

Peterson carried the ball seven consecutive plays on one possession, and the 2012 MVP later picked up 15 yards on fourth-and-1. The Redskins (1-2) signed Peterson on Monday after injuries to three running backs and were eager to see what the 33-year-old had in the tank.

They got their answer: enough to likely earn the starting job for Week 1 at the Arizo-

na Cardinals. After only three practices, Peterson looked to have passed Rob Kelley, Kapri Bibbs and injured backs Samaje Perine and Byron Marshall on the depth chart.

Peterson's play was a bright spot for the Redskins as they were carved up by Case Keenum and Denver's first-team offense.

Giants 22, Jets 16: Sam Darnold led the Jets on two touchdown drives, moving closer to securing the starting quarterback job in a loss to the Giants.

The No. 3 overall draft pick made his second consecutive start, finishing 8-for-16 for 86 yards and a 12-yard touchdown pass to Terrelle Pryor.

Panthers 25, Patriots 14: Cam Newton gave his team an early injury scare before returning to help host Carolina defeat New England in a preseason game.

Newton was forced to leave the game to be evaluated for a concussion, but returned four plays later to a loud ovation and played the remainder of the first half.

Vikings 21, Seahawks 20: Kirk Cousins helped his team's offense make some progress by passing for 182 yards in the first half, and third-stringer Kyle Slotter threw for two fourth-quarter touchdowns as host Minnesota rallied for a victory over Seattle.

Lions 33, Buccaneers 30:

Brandon Powell scored on an 80-yard punt return and Jake Rudock threw a 5-yard touchdown pass to Marcus Lucas with 30 seconds remaining to give visiting Detroit a victory over Tampa Bay.

Raiders 13, Packers 6: Derek Carr led a scoring drive for host Oakland on his only possession of a shorter-than-expected preseason appearance.

Coach Jon Gruden had said earlier in the week that Carr and the offensive starters would likely play into the second quarter. But he pulled him after an opening drive that ended when Reggie Gilbert bull-rushed right tackle Donald Penn into Carr, leading to a sack and fumble that Carr recovered.

Weis Jr. works well with Kiffin at FAU

Associated Press

BOCA RATON, Fla. — Charlie Weis Jr. has been on the field celebrating Super Bowl wins. He's worn a headset on the sidelines at Notre Dame games, studied under Nick Saban and interned for Bill Belichick.

He's learned from the best.

And he's a mere 25 years old.

Age is just a number to Florida Atlantic coach Lane Kiffin, a former coaching prodigy himself who decided to hire Weis Jr. — the namesake son of the longtime coach probably best known for his stint at Notre Dame — as the Owls' offensive coordinator this season, letting him oversee a group that is expected to pile up a ton of points in 2018.

"From the time he was a little kid, this is what he wanted to do," Charlie Weis Sr. said.

That makes sense. Then again, the time Weis Jr. was a little kid wasn't all that long ago.

When his dad was leading the Fighting Irish, Weis Jr. went to high school literally across the street from campus. After school, he went to the football office and essentially was right back in class, learning every nuance of football. It didn't take long for him to decide that he

wanted to coach, and that's the only job he's ever had. And now he's believed to be the youngest offensive coordinator in major college football history.

"Coaching, I felt, was my calling to help people," Weis Jr. said. "You know, not just the schematics and the fun of all that stuff, but helping young players develop and become better people."

His parents, he said, reacted thusly when he decided to enter coaching: "No, no, no," he said.

Weis Sr., who dealt with negativity on the way to getting fired by Notre Dame and Kansas, doesn't remember it quite that way. He said Weis Jr. was encouraged to be something like a doctor or a lawyer, a career that would have kept him off the roller coasters of emotion and scrutiny that most coaches face now after every win and every loss.

"But once it was pretty clear what the path was that he wanted to take, we just tried to help him along that path," said Weis Sr., who has been to a couple of FAU practices this summer and bought a luxury suite for this season's home games.

As an undergrad at Florida, Weis Jr. was a coach with the offense and was tasked with prepping then-Gators coach Will Muschamp for weekly

news conferences, educating him on that week's opponent. He interned with the Patriots, helping chart the production of Tom Brady and the other New England quarterbacks. He had about a half-dozen jobs at Kansas when his dad was the coach there.

And when he went to Alabama as a grad assistant, he worked with Kiffin.

Weis has been someone that Kiffin wanted to have around him ever since.

"I'm trying to help him not make some mistakes that I made," said Kiffin, who, like Weis, is the son of a highly successful coach. "But he'll be fine. He's a lot more probably balanced than I was at that age and more mature. So we do talk about that, but I don't think he's going to have issues."

Kiffin — also the son of a successful coach, someone who knew very quickly that he was going to follow his dad into the family business — understands how that whiz-kid label feels. At 31, he was the youngest head coach in modern NFL history when the Oakland Raiders hired him in 2007. (Sean McVay of the Los Angeles Rams now holds that title, after being hired last year as a 30-year-old.)

Kiffin didn't handle fast fame

well.

Weis Jr. doesn't seem to have that problem.

He's still boyish-looking. He walks around FAU's campus unnoticed, largely because he definitely can still pass for an undergrad. He smiles a lot. He's soft-spoken. He's only a couple of years older than most of FAU's best offensive players, yet he has unquestioned respect in the locker room.

"I'm not going to say that it's been the easiest transition," Weis Jr. said. "But over time, especially in this new role, I've gotten better at it and I'm starting to develop with it. And whenever I have questions about it I go to coach Kiffin, because he's obviously gone through it. He was a coach at a very young age so he's gone through a lot of the same experiences."

The Owls might be loaded on the offensive side this season. There's some questions at quarterback — Kiffin remains undecided on a starter — but running back Devin Singletary led the nation with 32 rushing touchdowns in 2017. It's also unclear if Weis Jr. will be the one actually calling plays, or if Kiffin will hold that role again.

Either way, Kiffin said Weis makes the Owls better.

"His knowledge is way beyond his years," Kiffin said.

OSU's Meyer apologizes to former assistant's ex-wife

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Amid withering criticism of his failing to more directly address domestic abuse issues at a news conference earlier this week, suspended Ohio State coach Urban Meyer issued an apology Friday to the ex-wife of a former assistant coach who was suspected of abusing her.

Meyer, who is serving a three-game suspension for his handling of abuse allegations and other misdeeds from former receivers coach Zach Smith, was criticized because he declined to address Courtney Smith during a question-and-

answer session with reporters on Wednesday night.

"Let me say here and now what I should have said on Wednesday: I sincerely apologize to Courtney Smith and her children for what they have gone through," Meyer said in a statement he tweeted and university officials emailed.

"My words and demeanor on Wednesday did not show how seriously I take relationship violence," the statement said. "This has been a real learning experience for me. I fully intend to use my voice more effectively to be a part of the solution."

Attorneys for Courtney Smith and Zach Smith did not respond to messages Friday night.

An investigative report released soon after Meyer answered questions about his suspension Wednesday night showed that he tolerated bad behavior for years from assistant coach Zach Smith, including domestic-violence accusations, drug addiction, lies and other acts that directly clash with the values Meyer touts publicly.

Zach Smith was arrested after he allegedly abused Courtney Smith in 2009 while working as a graduate assistant under Meyer at Florida. In 2015

Courtney Smith said her husband put his hands around her neck and shoved her against a wall. He wasn't charged in either case. Zach Smith's attorney said in a statement Wednesday that Meyer and athletic director Gene Smith were "collateral damage" from Courtney Smith's desire to hurt her ex-husband.

Meyer eventually acknowledged he was aware of the 2015 allegations, but didn't fire Zach Smith until July 24 after Courtney Smith was granted a domestic protection order to protect her from her ex-husband.

Bote's 10th-inning home run lifts Cubs

Associated Press

CHICAGO — While David Bote is learning about the major leagues, baseball is learning about the rookie, too.

Like be really, really careful when he steps to the plate in a big spot.

Bote struck again on Friday, connecting in the 10th inning for another game-ending home run that sent the Chicago Cubs over the Cincinnati Reds 3-2 for their third straight victory.

The 25-year-old Bote, an 18th-round pick in the 2012 draft, got behind 0-2 before driving Raisel Iglesias' next pitch deep to left field with one out. He flipped his batting helmet off as he approached his smiling teammates and tried unsuccessfully to sidestep a water-cooler shower before stepping on home plate.

"I don't know what was in that Gatorade bath. It smelled horrible," a laughing Bote said.

"But I mean it feels great, so it's fun."

Bote created quite a splash earlier this month, hitting a bottom-of-the-ninth, two-out grand slam on a Sunday night that beat Washington 4-3 on Aug. 12. Each of his five career homers has either tied the game or put the Cubs in front.

"Just hunting spots on pitches and I was able to get a barrel on it," he said.

Iglesias (2-2) had made seven straight scoreless appearances. Jesse Chavez (4-2), the sixth Cubs reliever, pitched a scoreless inning for the win.

"That was an extremely well-played game, well-pitched game," Reds manager Jim Riggleman said.

Daniel Murphy homered in the eighth for NL Central-leading Chicago, and Javier Baez had a run-scoring single in the sixth. Alec Mills pitched 5²/₃ innings of one-run ball in his first major league start.

Last-place Cincinnati wasted a solid performance by Matt Harvey in its fourth loss in five games. Harvey struck out six in 5¹/₃ innings after he was reportedly claimed off waivers by the contending Brewers, only remaining with the Reds when they couldn't work out a deal.

"I didn't know what to expect," Harvey said. "There were some nerves, I guess, some different feelings coming through this morning. ... I'm glad I'm still staying here the rest of the season."

Harvey is 6-5 with a 4.14 ERA in 18 starts after he was acquired in a trade with the New York Mets, salvaging his season after a rough start. But he is eligible for free agency this winter and isn't expected to stay with the Reds.

"He's really good. If you want something good, you have to give up something, you know?" Riggleman said. "Obvi-

ously, nobody wanted to give up enough. In their eyes, they probably felt it was enough. We certainly didn't think it was enough."

Bote and Albert Almora Jr. struck out swinging before Murphy drove the next pitch from Jared Hughes over the wall in right for his first homer since he was acquired in a trade with Washington on Tuesday.

The crowd of 37,760 roared as Murphy rounded the bases, and the veteran second baseman acknowledged the cheers by popping out of the dugout for a curtain call.

But Cincinnati responded with Eugenio Suarez's leadoff drive on a 2-2 pitch from Pedro Strop in the ninth, tying it at 2. It was Suarez's 29th homer, extending his career high, and just the second blown save for Strop since closer Brandon Morrow was placed on the disabled list last month.

MLB roundup

Seattle's Diaz picks up 49th save in win over Arizona

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Edwin Diaz was thrilled to set a Seattle Mariners franchise record with his 49th save. He's really looking forward to the next one, though.

Maybe a little more than manager Scott Servais — who has promised to match Diaz's funky haircut when his All-Star closer reaches No. 50.

"I want to get my 50 to see the haircut," Diaz said after he closed out Seattle's 6-3 win over the Arizona Diamondbacks on Friday night. "If I do it here on the road I will bring the barber."

Diaz finished off a strong start from Erasmo Ramirez, Mitch Haniger hit his 21st homer and had three hits, and Mike Zunino added a solo shot for the Mariners. Seattle kept pace in the AL West and wildcard races.

Brewers 7, Pirates 6 (15): Orlando Arcia's RBI single with two outs in the 15th inning lifted host Milwaukee past Pittsburgh.

Rangers 7, Giants 6 (10): At San Francisco, Rougned Odor hit a tying two-run homer in the ninth inning, Robinson Chirinos drew a bases-loaded walk in the 10th and Texas rallied from six runs down.

Rays 10, Red Sox 3: Rookie Jalen Beeks beat his former team for the second time in six days as Tampa Bay topped visiting Boston for its sixth straight win.

Marlins 1, Braves 0: At Miami, Dan Straily combined with three relievers on a three-hitter and host Miami snapped a seven-game losing streak against NL East-leading Atlanta.

Royals 5, Indians 4: Ryan O'Hearn and Hunter Dozier hit

back-to-back home runs leading off the ninth inning against Cleveland closer Cody Allen to lift host Kansas City.

Yankees 7, Orioles 5 (10): Luke Voit connected in the 10th inning for his second home run of the game to preserve New York's victory over host Baltimore.

Athletics 7, Twins 1: Matt Chapman hit a three-run homer, Sean Manaea pitched efficiently into the sixth inning and visiting Oakland beat Minnesota.

Cardinals 7, Rockies 5: Miles Mikolas and Tyler O'Neill each homered to help visiting St. Louis to an early lead that held up against Colorado.

Dodgers 11, Padres 1: Rich Hill allowed two hits over six innings, Chris Taylor, Justin Turner and Max Muncy homered, and host Los Angeles routed San Diego to snap a three-game skid.

Astros 9, Angels 3: At Anaheim, Calif., Marwin Gonzalez hit a grand slam and Jose Altuve and Carlos Correa also homered to lead Houston past Los Angeles.

Blue Jays 4, Phillies 2: Kendrys Morales homered for the fifth straight game, Billy McKinney hit a two-run shot and host Toronto sent Philadelphia to its fifth loss in six games.

Mets 3, Nationals 0: Jay Bruce hit a two-run homer in his return from a long stint on the disabled list, Jason Vargas tossed six stellar innings and host New York handed Washington its second consecutive shutout.

White Sox 6, Tigers 3: Yoan Moncada and Tim Anderson each hit a two-run double in the eighth, and visiting Chicago scored six runs in the inning to rally in manager Rick Renteria's return to the dugout.