

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

Thursday, August 30, 2018

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

US fleet chiefs meet amid Russia naval buildup

BY SCOTT WYLAND
Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — The heads of 6th Fleet and the newly reborn 2nd Fleet convened Thursday at the Navy's European headquarters to discuss how they will monitor an increasingly assertive Russian navy, which is now massing warships in the Mediterranean Sea for large-scale exercises.

Vice Adm. Lisa Franchetti, 6th Fleet commander, and Vice Adm. Andrew Lewis, commander of 2nd Fleet, met behind closed doors in Naples.

In a written statement, Franchetti said she and Lewis talked about how the two fleets will collaborate in "this era of great power competition."

"Let there be no mistake, our fleets will operate in a dynamic security environment, and the establishment of U.S. 2nd Fleet will help the U.S. Navy and our nation to meet these challenges head on," Franchetti said.

The admirals' meeting coincided with an announcement by the Russian defense

ministry Thursday that it will commence exercises in the eastern Mediterranean involving at least 25 warships and 30 aircraft.

Russia's war games — the largest in recent memory in the Mediterranean — are the latest sign of Moscow's efforts to establish a formidable naval presence in the region. The drill pulls together ships from Russia's Northern, Baltic and Black Sea fleets. They will include Tupolev Tu-160 strategic bombers, fighters and anti-submarine maritime patrol planes.

The Russian naval buildup in the eastern Mediterranean also comes as Syrian government forces — backed by the Russian air force — turn their attention toward Idlib, the last rebel-held province of Syria. Some of the warships taking part in the naval drills are equipped with long-range Kalibr cruise missiles, which already have been used against rebel targets with devastating effects.

Navy officials declined to comment Thursday on Russia's upcoming drills, which will take place over one week.

For 6th Fleet and 2nd Fleet, a key question will be how the lines will be redrawn on 6th Fleet's area of operations, which now extends across half the Atlantic, and from Iceland to the Antarctic.

The Navy's top leaders have said that 2nd Fleet will operate from the East Coast to the north Atlantic, including the Arctic.

Adm. John Richardson, chief of naval operations, said at a ceremony last week that the 2nd Fleet could patrol as far north as the Barents Sea, which abuts Russia's coastline.

Russia has tested several nuclear missiles in the Barents Sea, according to CNBC.

In addition to the Mediterranean and the Barents, Moscow is boosting naval activity in other areas, such as the Baltic Sea, Black Sea and the Pacific Ocean.

The reinstated 2nd Fleet will be a scaled-down version of its Cold War predecessor, which was decommissioned in 2011 and was absorbed into Fleet Forces Command to trim costs.

Trump hints at restarting war games with S. Korea

BY KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — President Donald Trump dangled the prospect of resuming war games with South Korea amid growing doubts over the North's willingness to give up nuclear weapons.

Trump, who suspended the annual drills after his historic summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Singapore, also reiterated his allegation that China is trying to sabotage the nuclear talks "because of our major trade disputes."

It was the latest sign that the White House's frustration is increasing over the deadlock in talks on both topics. Trump also called off a trip to North Korea by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo that had been planned for this week.

The president complained that the exercises, which always infuriate the North, are costly but warned he could restart them at any time.

"There is no reason at this time to be spending large amounts of money on joint

U.S.-South Korea war games," Trump wrote Wednesday in a series of tweets labeled as a White House statement.

"Besides, the President can instantly start the joint exercises again with South Korea, and Japan, if he so chooses," it added. "If he does, they will be far bigger than ever before."

The comments came a day after Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said the suspension of "several of the largest exercises" had been a good-faith measure after Singapore but the Pentagon has "no plans at this time to suspend any more exercises."

Joint military exercises are a lynchpin of the longstanding U.S.-South Korean alliance, which was forged in the 1950-53 war that ended in an armistice instead of a peace treaty. But North Korea considers them a rehearsal for an invasion and routinely lashes out in protest despite the military's insistence that the exercises are defensive in nature.

Trump said after the June 12 summit that the United States would be stopping the war games "unless and until we see

the future negotiation is not going along like it should." He called them costly and "provocative."

The Pentagon has estimated that Ulchi Freedom Guardian, a largely computer-driven exercise that involves thousands of troops from on and off the divided peninsula, would have cost about \$14 million.

Mattis later made it official, calling off the Ulchi Freedom Guardian exercise that had been planned for late August along with scheduled joint Marine drills.

Critics warned the president was giving up too much without getting major concessions in return since the North had not agreed to any specific measures or timelines.

Talks have deadlocked as Washington demands concrete measures, including an inventory of the North's nuclear arsenal while Pyongyang wants a phased approach that would include rewards such as eased sanctions and a formal end to the Korean War in exchange for denuclearization steps.

NATO considers naming HQ after McCain

BY JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

NATO is considering a proposal to name the alliance's new Brussels headquarters after the late U.S. Sen. John McCain, an idea that has support from three former leaders of the security pact.

British parliamentarian Tom Tugendhat, who chairs the foreign affairs committee in the House of Commons, is pushing to name the \$1.4 billion headquarters in honor of McCain, who was a fierce advocate of the trans-Atlantic alliance.

"Few argued more passionately for a shared commitment to each other's secu-

rity or understood better that we are all part of one great experiment in freedom," Tugendhat wrote in an online petition at Change.org. "Honouring him would signify our determination to stand together for a new generation."

The move could put NATO's current leader, Jens Stoltenberg, in a difficult position with Trump, who has expressed antipathy toward the Arizona senator and ambivalence toward the alliance.

Three former NATO secretaries-general — Anders Fogh Rasmussen, Javier Solana and George Robertson — back the effort. They said McCain was a "beacon for all of us who believe that transatlantic unity is

the only means of ensuring peace."

"We urge NATO to repay this lifetime of service to its mission by naming its new Brussels headquarters after Senator McCain," the former alliance leaders wrote in a joint letter released Thursday.

For more than a year, Trump has blasted NATO and key members like Germany, which he accuses of being security free-riders that don't invest enough in defense.

Tensions spilled over during the July summit in Brussels, where Trump made threats to withdraw from the alliance because of spending disputes.

NATO said that the name change would be given consideration.

Marine pleads guilty to sexual assault, drug charges

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — A member of the III Marine Expeditionary Force has pleaded guilty to two counts of sexual assault and six counts related to the use and distribution of LSD.

Pvt. Jordan Rhodes, 22, of Bolingbrook, Ill., had been charged with the Jan. 13 rape of a female Marine who was under the influence of alcohol and unable to consent, according to a copy of the charge sheet provided to Stars and Stripes.

He also was charged with using and providing LSD to a pair of Marines on two separate occasions last year, and failing to obey a lawful written order to not drink alcohol.

During a court-martial Tuesday, Rhodes

received a dishonorable discharge and five years' confinement, though he will do closer to two years because of a pretrial agreement that capped confinement at 36 months and credit for time served, III MEF spokesman Maj. Clint Gebke said in an email to Stars and Stripes on Wednesday.

Rhodes — who was assigned to the 7th Communications Battalion, III MEF Information Group — was detained on the sexual assault charges the day after the incident, Gebke said. The first count stems from committing a penetrative sex act without proper consent, and the second was levied for causing bodily harm during that act.

Prosecutors said Rhodes knew, or "reasonably" should have known, that the woman was too intoxicated to consent, the charge sheet said.

Rhodes was accused of using the LSD on

or about July 12, 2017, and Sept. 30, 2017, and of providing the drug to two unnamed Marines, the charge sheet said.

He was charged with one count of use of a controlled substance, LSD, and one count of attempted use. He also was charged with two counts of distribution of a controlled substance and two counts of attempted distribution of a controlled substance.

It remains unclear as to whether the LSD Rhodes had obtained was legitimate or potent enough to alter perception.

He also was accused of failing to obey a lawful written order.

"You are not allowed to consume alcoholic beverages," an unnamed superior ordered Rhodes on Dec. 14, 2017, according to the charge sheet. It is unclear if this order was unit-wide or specific to Rhodes for past transgressions.

Former Green Beret celebrates 100th birthday with skydive

BY WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

DILLINGHAM AIRFIELD, Hawaii — Blowing out 100 candles wasn't good enough for Polito "Paul" Olivas, a 30-year Army veteran whose career took him through World War II and the Korean and Vietnam wars.

On Wednesday, the former Green Beret jumped tandem from a plane 14,000 feet in the air over Oahu's North Shore and landed in Dillingham Airfield — a week after he turned 100.

"I'd do it again," he told a gaggle of reporters minutes after landing.

As a veteran paratrooper with the 101st Airborne Division that jumped into Normandy, France, on D-Day in June 1944, Olivas has hundreds of parachute drops under his belt. But none included free-falling — the span in jumping before the chute opens. His jumps were all relatively low to the ground, and each parachute was connected to a static line that automatically deployed it as he exited the airplane.

His birthday jump had a minute-long free fall, followed by about 5 minutes under an open chute.

He recalled that on D-Day, his plane was only about 300 feet above the ground when he jumped.

"The closer you are to the ground, the less of a target you are," Olivas said Wednesday morning as he awaited his flight.

He described the sequence of emotions he felt as he dodged bullets above and in Normandy.

"Fear turns into anger," he said. "Then, all you want to do is kill, like a mad dog. The adrenaline works."

Asked why he joined the Green Berets, Olivas said, with some hesitation, "Probably, the distinction — blood and guts. When you're Airborne, you're already there. The Green Beret is a little bit higher, a little bit more meaner, more uglier."

Fla.'s pivotal race for governor turns nasty

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — In a sign that the next 10 weeks could eclipse past campaigns in the nation's largest political battleground, Florida's race for governor swiftly became heated and personal after the surprising primary victories of Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum and U.S. Rep. Ron DeSantis.

Gillum, a far-left Democrat seeking to become the state's first black governor, and DeSantis, a Trump-endorsed Republican, are political opposites. DeSantis assailed Gillum in a Wednesday television appearance that critics denounced as racist after the Republican called Gillum an "articulate" candidate, but said "the last thing we need to do is to mon-

key this up by trying to embrace a socialist agenda with huge tax increases and bankrupting this state." President Donald Trump also weighed in on the race by calling Gillum a "failed socialist mayor" on Twitter.

Gillum responded by decrying what he called the "gutter politics" of DeSantis that he said echoes the influence of Trump on American politics.

"I think the Florida electorate is going to reject the politics of division," Gillum said in an interview with The Associated Press. "We're going to try to compel and appeal to the higher values of the people of the state of Florida."

The exchange between the two campaigns came less than a day after a primary outcome that appeared unthinkable a few months ago. DeSan-

tis came from behind in the GOP primary with the help of Trump to beat Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam, who campaigned longer, raised more money and built party establishment support.

Gillum upset a field of five that included former U.S. Rep. Gwen Graham, who was hoping to become the state's first female governor and win the office once held by her father, Bob Graham.

DeSantis, who has been a frequent guest on Fox News, took to the network to blast his general election opponent as someone who would hurt the state. But his interview came quickly under fire by Democrats and quickly raged across social media.

"That was more than a dog-whistle," said U.S. Rep. Lois

Frankel, a West Palm Beach Democrat. "That was absolutely a racist, disgusting statement. I don't think there's any other way to interpret it."

The DeSantis campaign clarified that his comments were directed at Gillum's policies, not the candidate himself. "To characterize it as anything else is absurd," his spokesman Stephen Lawson said. Republicans also came to DeSantis' defense, contending that the media and Democrats were mischaracterizing what DeSantis said.

Trump on Twitter said that not only did DeSantis win but that "his opponent in November is his biggest dream." He called Gillum a "failed socialist mayor" who has "allowed crime and many other problems to flourish in the city."

Election opponent blisters indicted Hunter in TV ad

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Just days after Republican Rep. Duncan Hunter was indicted by a federal grand jury, his Democratic opponent is trying to make him pay a political price.

Ammar Campa-Najjar's campaign said it would begin airing a 30-second TV ad Thursday that calls the congressman an embarrassment to the Southern California district. It contends he was driven by greed during his time in Washington.

Hunter and his wife were charged last week with using more than \$250,000 in campaign funds to finance family trips to Italy and Hawaii, golf outings, school tuition, theater tickets, then scheming to hide the illegal spending in federal records. They've pleaded not guilty, and Hunter calls the charges politically motivated.

"We didn't know, but now we do," a male narrator says in the ad, as a shot of the indictment flashes on the screen.

"It's more than unethical and illegal. He's an embarrassment," he says.

The ad ends with the narrator urging voters in the strongly Republican district to "put country over party" and support Campa-Najjar.

The federal charges have brought new attention to Campa-Najjar, 29, a former Obama administration Labor Department official making his first run for Congress. The Democrat's attempt to make the indictment a central campaign issue is no surprise in a race in which he remains an underdog.

The 50th Congressional District east of San Diego is the most Republican in Southern California, where the party holds a nearly 15-point registration edge over Democrats.

Hunter, a Marine who saw combat in Iraq and Afghanistan and was first elected in 2008, has called the investigation a "witch hunt" and said he's eager to go to trial. In a statement last week, he blamed the indictment on "a culture operating within our Justice Department that is politically motivated."

CNN still stands by story on Trump's knowing of meeting

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Despite a key source backing off his assertion, CNN is sticking by a story casting doubt on President Donald Trump's claim that he did not have prior knowledge of a June 2016 meeting with a Russian lawyer to get damaging information on Hillary Clinton.

CNN said it had more than one source for its story, co-authored by Jim Sciutto and Watergate figure Carl Bernstein.

CNN's story, written July 27, said that former Trump lawyer Michael Cohen was willing to say that he heard Trump's son, Donald Trump Jr., tell his father about the Russians' offer to share material about Clinton, his Democratic rival for the presidency. It also said that Trump gave the go-ahead to take the meeting at Trump Tower. If true, that would contradict what Trump and representatives have long said, that he didn't know about the meeting until long after it happened.

Cohen's lawyer, Lanny Davis, recently has taken back

earlier remarks, and now has said that he is no longer certain that Cohen legitimately could claim Trump knew about the meeting, and that he didn't have information to prove it. He said he was a source for other news organizations that tried to match CNN's original story and, indeed, that he was a source for CNN.

Some CNN critics wondered if Davis' subsequent statement meant that CNN should retract its full story. But CNN made a distinction: Its first story did not assert that Trump definitely knew about the meeting ahead of time — only that Cohen had been making the claim while talking with prosecutors. CNN said Tuesday: "[W]e stand by our story, which had more than one source, and are confident in our reporting of it."

Early Wednesday, the president tweeted criticism. "The fact is that many anonymous sources don't even exist. They are fiction made up by the Fake News reporters. Look at the lie that Fake CNN is now in. They got caught red handed! Enemy of the People!"

Teen's kin: Ex-officer's prison term too short

Associated Press

DALLAS — A Texas jury gave a white former police officer too lenient a punishment when sentencing him to 15 years for the shooting death of an unarmed black teen who was in a car leaving a house party, the victim's family members said.

Roy Oliver fired into the car filled with teens the night of the April 2017 party in suburban Dallas, killing Jordan Edwards, 15.

"He can actually see life again after 15 years, and that's not enough because Jordan can't see life again," Edwards' stepmother, Charmaine Edwards, said of Oliver after he was sentenced Wednesday night.

She praised the work of prosecutors as well as the jury's decision to convict Oliver of murder on Tuesday. But she wanted that same jury to send Oliver to prison for a longer period.

Daryl Washington, an attorney for Edwards' father, said the sentence could have been longer but still sends a message.

"We know that there are parents all over this country who would love to see the person who took the life of their kid spend the next 15 years in prison," Washington said.

Prosecutors had asked for a minimum of 60 years in prison.

The murder conviction was extremely rare for a shooting involving an on-duty officer. Oliver's defense team said it already had begun the process of appealing.

Oliver was a police officer in the community of Balch Springs when he and his partner responded to reports of underage drinking at the party. Oliver fired into a car carrying Edwards and his friends, later saying he feared the vehicle was moving toward and endangering his partner. Edwards, who was in the front passenger seat, was shot.

Australian officials bar leaker Chelsea Manning from country

Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia — Convicted classified document leaker Chelsea Manning will not be allowed to enter Australia for a speaking tour scheduled to start Sunday, her event organizer said on Thursday.

Think Inc. said it had received on Wednesday a notice of intention from the government to deny Manning entry. The group is calling on her supporters to lobby new Immigration Minister David Coleman to allow her into Australia. While she can appeal, past precedent suggests the decision has already been made.

Think Inc. said it had given the government more than 10 letters of support from individuals and organizations who support Manning's entry to Australia.

"Ms. Manning offers formi-

dable ideas and an insightful perspective which we are hoping to bring to the forefront of Australian dialogue," Think Inc. Director Suzi Jamil said in a statement.

Manning was an intelligence analyst for the U.S. Army when she leaked military and diplomatic documents to the anti-secrecy website WikiLeaks.

She served seven years of a 35-year sentence before then-President Barack Obama granted her clemency in 2017.

The transgender activist who recently lost a long-shot bid for a U.S. Senate seat in Maryland is scheduled to speak at the Sydney Opera House on Sunday and has subsequent events in Australia and New Zealand.

The Department of Home Affairs said while it does not comment on individual cases, all noncitizens entering Australia must meet character require-

ments set out in the Migration Act. Reasons a person might fail the character test include a criminal record or a determination they might a risk to the community.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the decision was for Coleman, who was sworn in as immigration minister on Tuesday.

A foreign affairs spokeswoman for the opposition Labor party, Penny Wong, said the government should be transparent about the reason if Manning is denied entry.

Amnesty International accused the government of trying to silence Manning. "By refusing her entry, the Australian government would send a chilling message that freedom of speech is not valued by our government," Amnesty International national director Claire Mallinson said in a statement.

Some citizens near border denied passports

The Washington Post

PHARR, Texas — On paper, he's a devoted U.S. citizen.

His official American birth certificate shows he was delivered by a midwife in Brownsville, at the southern tip of Texas. He spent his life wearing American uniforms: three years as a private in the Army, then as a cadet in the Border Patrol and now as a state prison guard.

But when Juan, 40, applied to renew his U.S. passport this year, the government's response floored him. In a letter, the State Department said it didn't believe he was an American citizen.

As he would later learn, Juan is one of a growing number of people whose official birth records show they were born in the U.S. but who are now being denied passports — their citizenship suddenly thrown into question. The Trump admin-

istration is accusing hundreds, and possibly thousands, of Hispanics along the border of using fraudulent birth certificates since they were babies, and it is undertaking a crackdown on their citizenship.

In a statement, the State Department said that it "has not changed policy or practice regarding the adjudication of passport applications," adding that "the U.S.-Mexico border region happens to be an area of the country where there has been a significant incidence of citizenship fraud."

But cases identified by The Washington Post and interviews with immigration attorneys suggest a dramatic shift in passport issuance and immigration enforcement. In some cases, passport applicants with U.S. birth certificates are being jailed in immigration detention centers and entered into deportation proceedings. In others, they are stuck in Mexico, their

passports revoked when they tried to re-enter the U.S. As the Trump administration attempts to reduce both legal and illegal immigration, the government's treatment of passport applicants in south Texas shows how U.S. citizens are increasingly being swept up by immigration enforcement agencies.

Juan said he was infuriated by the government's response. "I served my country. I fought for my country," he said, speaking on the condition that his last name not be used so that he wouldn't be targeted by immigration enforcement.

The government alleges that from the 1950s through the 1990s, some midwives and physicians along the Texas-Mexico border provided U.S. birth certificates to babies who were actually born in Mexico. In a series of federal court cases in the 1990s, several birth attendants admitted to providing fraudulent documents.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Giant Monitor lizard terrorizing family

FL DAVIE — A Florida family is terrified of a huge Monitor lizard that has taken up residence in their backyard.

The lizard is about 7 feet long and weighs about 150 pounds. Homeowner Zachary Lieberman told the Sun Sentinel that the lizard was at his back patio door “scratching to get inside the house” Sunday night.

The family enlisted the help of trappers, dogs and Florida Fish and Wildlife officers to help catch the lizard. They’ve used dead rodents and chicken thighs to try to lure the reptile into traps, but it has eluded capture.

Police: Pair stole trash cans around city

NM SANTA FE — Two New Mexico men are facing charges after police said the pair went on a spree of stealing trash cans around Santa Fe.

The Santa Fe New Mexican reported Kenneth Brooks, 50, and Nicola Weydeveld, 19, were arrested Sunday after a security guard spotted them pushing rolling trash carts with trash cans inside from the Santa Fe Community Convention Center. A criminal complaint said police found the two men next to the two carts with other trash carts loaded inside.

Police said one stolen bin was valued at more than \$3,200.

Schools rent pouches to keep kids off phones

VA ROANOKE — A Virginia school district will spend more than \$13,000 to keep high school students off their phones during math class.

The Roanoke Times reported that the Roanoke School Board unanimously OK’d a pilot program for all math classes at William Fleming and Patrick Henry high schools. The district will order at least 700 lockable pouches from San Francisco-based company Yondr. Deputy Superintendent Dan Lyons said the pouches cost around \$19 a pop to rent for the school year.

Students will be required to place their cellphones in the pouches, which lock magnetically and remain inaccessible until the teacher unlocks it with a separate device.

Bees swarm hot dog stand in Times Square

NY NEW YORK — A swarm of bees caused a brief commotion in Times Square after they made their home atop a hot dog stand.

It happened at 43rd Street and Broadway on Tuesday.

The New York Police Department’s beekeepers unit responded to the scene and safely removed the bees.

WABC-TV showed thousands of bees crowding the top of the vendor’s umbrella as a beekeeper sucks them into a hose.

In a tweet, the NYPD said that “no tourist was harmed and no bee was left behind.”

Police: Man sprayed hot tar on group

PA SCRANTON — Police in Pennsylvania are investigating a group of friends’ claim that a man sprayed them down with hot tar because he was angry he was in the background of one of their videos.

Scranton police said they are looking for the suspect in the attack. Victim Michael Prado told WNEP-TV all eight of them were hit by tar, and one of his friends had to be treated for first-degree burns.

Prado said the man was laughing at them while he sprayed gallons of tar at them from a utility truck.

Drugs allegedly sold from ice cream truck

CA LONG BEACH — Southern California authorities say two men were selling more than frozen treats from an ice cream truck.

Long Beach police spokeswoman Nancy Pratt told the Press-Telegram detectives found narcotics in the truck while conducting an investigation during the weekend.

The drugs included methamphetamine and marijuana. A revolver was found as well.

Umbrella thought to be gun leads to lockdown

VT LYNDONVILLE — Police in Vermont said a high school lockdown was sparked by someone confusing an umbrella for a rifle.

Lyndonville Police Chief Jack Harris said police responded to reports of someone carrying a “long gun” Tuesday morning near the Lyndon Institute. The Caledonian-Record reported the school then went into lockdown.

Police said a student was later located matching the description of the original report, and was found to be carrying an umbrella. No actual firearms were involved or located.

Firefighters save horse named Cowboy from pool

AZ PHOENIX — Authorities said Phoenix firefighters had to save an unusual cowboy from a pool — a horse named Cowboy, that is.

KPHO-TV in Phoenix reported Phoenix firefighters pulled Cowboy from a pool after a neighbor spotted water rippling

around the 1,100-pound equine. The horse’s owner, Gail Stone, believes her donkey, Bernie, chewed a chain on a neighbor’s gate that allowed Cowboy to escape and grab a swim.

Firefighters eventually rescued the horse by using a hose to hoist him out.

Classmates can’t find missing time capsule

MI COLOMA — Ex-classmates in Michigan reunited to uncover a time capsule they buried 30 years ago only to be unable to find it.

The Herald-Palladium reported the seven classmates and two teachers spent two hours looking outside Coloma Junior High in southwestern Michigan. Tracy Gilmer said she remembers putting a Michael Jackson cassette in the box along with assignments the students did in an accelerated writing and reasoning program, including potentially a flag for a made-up country.

The group may next search for a metal detector that can detect metal deeper in the ground.

Fundraiser held to re-create lampposts

IN LAFAYETTE — A northwestern Indiana arts group is raising money to replace a pair of 1920s bronze lampposts that were stolen this summer.

The heavy ornamental posts dating to 1926 were stolen from outside Lafayette’s Wells Community Cultural Center in mid-July and sold to local scrapyards. Police recovered some parts of the lampposts.

The Tippecanoe Arts Federation launched a crowdfunding effort that will pay to re-create the lampposts from those parts.

From wire reports

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Transfers new normal for college QBs

Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — The day after Adrian Martinez was pronounced the winner of Nebraska's quarterback competition, the runner-up left school.

At Clemson, the arrival of celebrated freshman quarterback Trevor Lawrence sent three other quarterbacks — one a former five-star recruit who signed just last year — looking for new teams.

At Ohio State, Joe Burrow saw his path to playing time looking bleak after spring practice and decided to transfer as a graduate student, making him immediately eligible to play. Now at LSU, Burrow won a starting job — and sent two more quarterbacks into the transfer market.

College quarterbacks are transferring with dizzying frequency, looking for playing time and chasing NFL dreams. It's become the new normal.

"I'd like to say that you're going to see a change," Notre Dame coach Brian Kelly said Tuesday. "When you're recruiting you're going to have to have it in your mind that if your No. 2 doesn't feel like he's going to get a shot you may lose him. I've come to grips with it a couple years ago. I don't see it changing."

He speaks from experience: Everett Golson, who led Notre Dame to the BCS championship game in 2012, transferred to Florida State in 2015 and Malik Zaire made a similar graduate transfer move last year to Florida.

"There are as many bad stories about the transfer of the quarterback as there are the good stories, too," Kelly said. "I don't think it's a home run, transferring out as the backup quarterback."

No. 12 Notre Dame's quarterback situation has been stable this offseason, but that's becoming increasingly unusual in college football. This offseason, No. 14 Michigan, Notre Dame's opponent in Saturday's opener, landed Shea Patterson as a transfer from Mississippi — and had two quarterbacks, Wilton Speight (UCLA) and Alex Malzone (Miami, Ohio) leave.

Michigan is one of at least 11 Power Five teams heading into the season with a transfer atop the depth chart at quarterback.

Patterson was the top-ranked quarterback in the 2016 recruiting class, according to 247Sports' composite rankings of the major ratings websites. Overall, eight of the top 20 quarterback recruits from 2016 have transferred.

Already four of the top 20 from 2017 have left the teams they signed with, including Hunter Johnson, who was rated No. 2 overall.

Johnson served as a backup for Clemson last season as a freshman. The arrival of Lawrence cleared out Clemson's quarterback room, leaving only Johnson and senior returning starter Kelly Bryant to compete. Johnson left after spring and is now at Northwestern, where he will sit out this season to fulfill NCAA transfer rules

and, ideally, move into the starting lineup next year after Clayton Thorson departs.

Nebraska's quarterback situation has been fluid under new coach Scott Frost, a former QB for the Cornhuskers. He signed the freshman Martinez, who enrolled early, and brought in Noah Vedral, a Nebraska native who transferred from UCF, Frost's previous employer.

After spring practices, 2016 signee Patrick O'Brien announced he was transferring. Frost declared Martinez the starter this week. A day later, Tristan Gebbia, a top-20 QB recruit from 2017, left the team.

"It's hard to manage as a coach and you do what you can for kids and I understand their perspective, they want to play. It would be hypocritical for me to talk about how much we care about the players and not allow someone to do what they want to do and do what's best for him," said Frost, who transferred from Stanford to Nebraska when he played. "The flip side of that is we preach to our guys all the time 'team before me.'"

The NCAA changed some transfer rules this year but kept in place the rule requiring players to sit out one season unless they have graduated. There has been talk of more tweaks to limit grad transfers and maybe give undergraduates more freedom to move with immediate eligibility.

"It's going to be messy," Frost said. "I wouldn't want to be the one to decide exactly what the rule is."

Heisman longshots look to follow Mayfield's path

Associated Press

Washington's Jake Browning is hoping to repeat what Baker Mayfield did last year.

Mayfield was a Heisman Trophy long shot in the preseason, but ended up winning the award while leading Oklahoma to the College Football Playoff for the second time in three years.

Browning was sixth in the Heisman voting two years ago after leading the Huskies to the Pac-12 title and the playoff, where they lost to Alabama in the semifinals. His productivity declined last year though as his touchdowns fell from 43 to 19.

Washington was 10-3 last season, but is the preseason favorite to win the Pac 12. Browning and the Huskies will also have an early opportunity to make a favorable impression to the rest of the nation as they face Auburn in the opener in Atlanta on Sept. 1.

A look at other Heisman longshots hoping to improve their odds:

Ed Oliver, DT, Houston: The junior might have set the record for being the earliest to announce that he is entering the NFL Draft. But there is good reason for that as Oliver might be the top pick. The 6-foot-3, 290-pound defensive lineman faces huge odds to win, but with 38½ tackles for loss the last two seasons and the possibility that coach Major Applewhite could use him on some offensive plays, he could at least get to New York as one of the finalists.

McKenzie Milton, QB, Central Florida: Milton was eighth in the voting last year after he led the Knights to an improbable 13-0 record and a victory over Auburn in the Peach Bowl. He was second in the nation in passing efficiency (179.3) and yards per attempt (10.22), finishing behind Mayfield.

Drew Lock, QB, Missouri: Lock set a Southeastern Conference record last season with 44 touchdown passes. Three SEC quarterbacks have won the award since 2007, but the senior is going to need to produce wins for a squad that lost five of its first six last season before finishing 7-6.

Cam Akers, RB, Florida State: New coach Willie Taggart says that the theme of his offense is "lethal simplicity." That is also an apt description of Akers. The sophomore had four 100-yard games last season along with setting Florida State's freshman rushing record with 1,025 yards. Akers will be counted on early to be a focal point of Taggart's offense, starting with the Sept. 3 opener against Virginia Tech.

Brian Lewerke, QB, Michigan State: The junior is a dual-threat quarterback who accounted for 3,352 yards of total offense as the Spartans won 10 games last season. With the turmoil surrounding Ohio State's program, Michigan State could end up as the favorite in the Big Ten East.

Rodney Anderson, RB, Oklahoma: There have been only three occasions where the same school has produced different Heisman winners in back-to-back seasons. Anderson didn't even start until mid-season last year, but he finished with 1,442 yards and 18 touchdowns from scrimmage. In his best game, he had 290 yards and four touchdowns from scrimmage in a regular-season win over TCU.

NFL briefs

Packers' Rodgers gets his extension

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Before he became the NFL's highest-paid player again, Aaron Rodgers wore a denim suit and cowboy hat that made him look as if he were going to serve as a chaperrone at a square dance.

For Rodgers, it's kind of a big deal either way.

The two-time NFL MVP signed a four-year extension with the Green Bay Packers on Wednesday that will keep him under contract through the 2023 season.

The four-year deal is worth \$134 million, with more than \$100 million in guaranteed money. Rodgers' former teammate, NFL Network analyst James Jones, first reported the agreement.

Rodgers' new annual average salary of \$33.5 million per year eclipses Atlanta Falcons quarterback Matt Ryan's five-year extension worth \$30 million a year.

"Looking forward to making some more memorable moments this year, and for years to come," Rodgers posted on an Instagram in a thank you message to the organization, teammates and fans.

Rodgers turns 35 in December. He signed his previous extension, a five-year deal worth \$110 million, before the 2013 season.

Rodgers had fallen behind in the ever-escalating world of NFL salaries since then, making him a relative bargain. He never voiced concern about his compensation. Both general manager Brian Gutekunst and Rodgers had expressed confidence that a new deal would get done.

Rodgers is healthy again after being limited to seven games last year because of a right collarbone injury. Green Bay flopped without him in 2017 and failed to make the playoffs.

Saints acquire QB Bridgewater from Jets

NEW ORLEANS — The New Orleans Saints have agreed to acquire veteran quarterback Teddy Bridgewater and a sixth-round pick from the New York Jets for a third-round draft pick on Wednesday.

While record-setting quarterback Drew Brees is entrenched as New Orleans' starter, the move signifies that Saints coach Sean Payton was not entirely comfortable with either veteran Tom Savage or second-year pro Taysom Hill serving as Brees' backup.

The Saints have their sights set on Super Bowl contention after coming within one play of reaching the NFC title game last season.

The reigning Super Bowl champion Philadelphia Eagles demonstrated the importance of a solid backup quarterback in 2017, winning a title after Nick Foles replaced injured Carson Wentz.

The trade brings more clarity to the Jets' quarterback situation. It appears rookie Sam Darnold is the starter after being given every opportunity to win the job in a competition that included Bridgewater and incumbent Josh McCown.

Darnold is 29-for-45 for 244 yards and two touchdowns with one interception in the pre-season and started the past two games, a strong signal that he will open the season under center when New York is at Detroit on Sept. 10.

Bridgewater arguably outplayed Darnold this summer, going 28-for-38 for 316 yards, two TDs and one interception.

More than anything, though, he proved he's healthy two years after a devastating knee injury that had many wondering if he'd ever walk again, let alone resume his football career.

Williams sisters to face off at US Open

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Get ready for the latest Grand Slam installment of Williams vs. Williams. One big difference this time: The superstar siblings will be meeting in the third round at the U.S. Open, their earliest showdown at a major tournament in 20 years.

Serena Williams set up the highly anticipated matchup at Flushing Meadows by hitting 13 aces and overwhelming 101st-ranked Carina Witthoef of Germany 6-2, 6-2 in a little more than an hour in Arthur Ashe Stadium on Wednesday night. Hours earlier, across the way at Louis Armstrong Stadium, Venus Williams did her part with another straight-set victory, eliminating 40th-ranked Camila Giorgi of Italy 6-4, 7-5.

"Unfortunately and fortunately, we have to play each other. We make each other better. We bring out the best when we play each other. It's what we do," Serena said. "I think we're used to it now."

When they play Friday, it will be their 30th tour-level encounter — plus, of course, all those times when they traded shots from across the net as kids in California, then on practice courts all around the world. It's also the soonest the sisters have played each other at any Grand Slam since their very first tour match, back at the 1998 Australian Open. Venus won that one. But since then, it's been the younger Serena who's grown dominant.

The reason this match comes so early is that their rankings are not what they've been in the past. Serena is No. 26, playing in only the seventh tournament since she was off the tour for more than a year while having a baby. Even though the U.S. Tennis Association bumped her seeding up to reflect her past success, it still placed her at No. 17. Venus, meanwhile is No. 16.

"It's so young in the tournament," Serena said. "We would

have rather met later."

She leads the series 17-12, including 10-5 at majors.

Both have been ranked No. 1. They have won a combined 30 Grand Slam singles trophies, 23 by Serena. They own eight U.S. Open singles championships, six by Serena.

They've played each other in the finals of all four Slams, including at the U.S. Open in 2001 (when Venus won) and 2002 (when Serena did).

"It's incredible what they've done. I mean, amazing really. Obviously there's been other siblings that have had fantastic careers in tennis, but none anywhere close to what they've managed to achieve," said three-time major champion Andy Murray, whose first major since hip surgery ended with a four-set loss to No. 31 Fernando Verdasco. "I'd be surprised if anything like that ever happens again."

Defending champion Rafael Nadal followed Serena into Ashe and wasn't really troubled at all, other than when he received a warning for letting the 25-second serve clock expire — something he figured was really his opponent's fault. Either way, Nadal shrugged off that third-set distraction and finished off a 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 victory over Vasek Pospisil.

Two other past men's champions won — Juan Martin del Potro, who beat Dennis Kudla of the U.S., and Stan Wawrinka — as did 2017 runner-up Kevin Anderson, and No. 11 seed John Isner.

Two-time major champion Garbine Muguruza built a big lead but gave it away and was stunned 3-6, 6-4, 6-4 by 202nd-ranked Czech qualifier Karolina Muchova.

Seeded women who advanced earlier on another day with the temperature topping 95 degrees included No. 7 Elina Svitolina, No. 8 Karolina Pliskova, No. 15 Elise Mertens, No. 19 Anastasiya Sevastova and No. 23 Barbora Strycova, all in straight sets.

Yelich hits for cycle in Brewers' win

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Christian Yelich sat on a chair in front of his locker, trying to take in all that had just happened.

"I'm so tired," he said.

No wonder. For more than four hours, Yelich led an improbable comeback with an historic effort.

Yelich became the eighth Brewers player to hit for the cycle on Wednesday night and tied the club record with six hits. Jesus Aguilar took it from there, hitting a homer in the 10th inning for a 13-12 victory over the Cincinnati Reds.

Then, it was time for everyone to catch their breath.

"I've never seen a game like that," Brewers manager Craig Counsell said of Yelich's 6-for-6 performance. "It was incredible. He's coming up and you're thinking he can't do it again, and he does it again. He did everything tonight, he really

did. He's driving the bus home tonight."

Milwaukee desperately needed all of it.

Aguilar connected off Raisel Iglesias (2-3) for Milwaukee's fourth homer of the game, halting the Brewers' month-long slide. Milwaukee has dropped 11 of 20 and slipped into third place in the NL Central, five games behind the Cubs.

"Look, the next month there's going to be crazy nights and there's going to be more nights like this," Counsell said. "It might be a different kind of crazy. We're ready to take the ride."

Yelich became the first Brewers player to hit for the cycle since George Kottaras on Sept. 3, 2011, at Houston. He also matched the club record with six of the Brewers' 22 hits, including a two-run homer.

"It's one of those things you never really expect to do," Yelich said. "Obviously you've

got to have some luck involved in it, that's always a factor when you do something like that."

Mike Moustakas' solo shot put Milwaukee ahead 11-10 in the eighth, but Joakim Soria's wild pitch allowed Billy Hamilton to score the tying run in the bottom of the inning. Jeremy Jeffress (7-1) gave up Brandon Dixon's homer in the 10th.

The Brewers extended their Great American Ball Park record to 21 straight games with at least one homer. Cincinnati connected five times, including a disputed three-run shot by reliever Michael Lorenzen that made it 10-6 in the sixth inning.

"It was a slugfest, for sure — back and forth, long rain delay," said Cincinnati's Tucker Barnhart, who had a solo shot. "That one had a little bit of everything."

Taylor Williams threw an up-and-in pitch to Lorenzen, who was trying to bunt with

two runners aboard and two strikes. The ball deflected off Lorenzen's bat as he pulled away, and plate umpire Tony Randazzo ruled — over the objection of Counsell — that Lorenzen was trying to avoid the pitch rather than bunt it.

Given an extra chance, Lorenzen connected on the next pitch for his fourth homer of the season, flipping his bat as he rounded the bases.

Yelich's night: Yelich is one of only four players since 1908 to have six hits and hit for the cycle in the same game. He joins Bobby Veach, Rondell White and Ian Kinsler.

Elite company: Eugenio Suarez hit his 30th homer, becoming the fourth player in Reds history to hit that many while playing primarily third base. He joins Tony Perez, Todd Frazier and Deron Johnson.

Bad start: The first pitch was delayed 27 minutes because of rain.

MLB roundup

Red Sox score 11 in 7th inning to rally past Marlins

Associated Press

BOSTON — Once the Boston Red Sox were done hitting line drives all around Fenway Park, they started thinking more about one that knocked David Price out of the game.

Mookie Betts homered early and had a two-run double in Boston's 11-run seventh inning as the Red Sox rallied for a 14-6 victory over the Miami Marlins after their hottest pitcher was injured Wednesday night.

"Once we got a couple of good at-bats, a couple of hits, things picked up from there," Brock Holt said. "We had a lot of fun that inning. You don't have a lot of innings like that."

The 33-year-old Price exited in the fourth after being struck by a line drive off the bat of Austin Dean on the final play of the previous inning.

White Sox 4, Yankees 1: Ryan LaMarre homered and drove in a career-best four runs and Chicago's Reynaldo Lopez stifled host New York again.

Dodgers 3, Rangers 1: Alex Wood pitched seven scoreless innings and visiting Los Angeles hit three solo homers to beat Texas and stretching its winning streak to five games.

Cubs 2, Mets 1 (11), completion of suspended game; Mets 10, Cubs 3: Todd Frazier hit a grand slam and drove in a season-high five runs to lead New York past host Chicago, avenging a tough loss earlier in the day.

Astros 5, Athletics 4: Tyler White homered with one out in the ninth inning to lift host Houston past Oakland.

Phillies 8, Nationals 6: Carlos Santana hit a grand slam and Jose Bautista had the go-

ahead RBI single in the seventh inning in host Philadelphia's victory over Washington.

Twins 4, Indians 3: Robbie Grossman had a two-out, two-run single off struggling Cleveland closer Cody Allen in the seventh inning to lift visiting Minnesota.

Royals 9, Tigers 2: Adalberto Mondesi hit a two-run homer and had four RBIs, Danny Duffy allowed two hits over six innings and host Kansas City routed Detroit to sweep the two-game series.

Orioles 10, Blue Jays 5: Adam Jones hit his second career grand slam, Trey Mancini had a solo shot and host Baltimore beat Toronto to complete its first three-game sweep of the season.

Padres 8, Mariners 3: Hunter Renfroe homered and drove in four runs, Manuel

Margot had a homer among his three hits and prized rookie Luis Urias had his first three hits to help host San Diego beat Seattle for a two-game sweep.

Pirates 2, Cardinals 0: Trevor Williams pitched six strong innings, Starling Marte had an RBI single in the sixth inning, and Pittsburgh beat host St. Louis.

Rays 8, Braves 5: C.J. Cron homered and had four hits, Tommy Pham added a two-run shot and Tampa Bay beat host Atlanta in a game delayed twice by rain.

Diamondbacks 3, Giants 1: Steven Souza Jr. homered leading off the third to end his team's 25-inning scoreless drought, then hit an RBI double the next inning and backed Zack Godley with a defensive gem in right field that helped Arizona beat host San Francisco.