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Senate to vote on war powers of Trump

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Political unease over the White House's tough talk against Iran is reviving questions about President Donald Trump's ability to order military strikes without approval from Congress.

The Senate was to vote Friday on an amendment to a sweeping defense bill that would require congressional support before Trump acts. It wasn't expected to pass. But lawmakers say Trump cannot continue relying on the nearly two-decade-old war authorizations Congress approved in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Democratic Sen. Tom Udall, of New Mexico, an author of the measure, says he's not alone in raising concern about Trump's "pingpong diplomacy" and "go-it-alone posture."

"This reckless diplomacy is dangerously reminiscent of the

runup to the war with Iraq," he said on the Senate floor Thursday.

The effort in the Senate signals discomfort with Trump's approach to foreign policy. Most Democrats and a few Republicans support Udall's amendment but it faces steep resistance from the White House and the Pentagon wrote a letter opposing it. "We must assert our constitutional authority," Udall said. "We must do so now before — through miscalculation, mistake or misjudgment — our nation finds itself in yet another endless war."

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell called it nothing more than another example of "Trump Derangement Syndrome," which he explained as whatever the president's for "they seem to be against."

McConnell said putting restrictions on the White House would "hamstring" the presi-

dent's ability to respond militarily at a time of escalating tension between the U.S. and Iran.

"They have gratuitously chosen to make him the enemy," McConnell said. "Rather than work with the president to deter our actual enemy, they have chosen to make him the enemy."

But Trump's approach to the standoff with Iran and his assertion earlier this week that he doesn't need congressional approval to engage militarily has only sparked fresh questions and hardened views in Congress.

Trump tweeted last week that the U.S. came within minutes of striking Iran in response to its shooting down of an unmanned U.S. drone until he told the military to stand down. He said he was concerned over an Iranian casualty count estimated at 150. "We've been keeping Congress

abreast of what we're doing ... and I think it's something they appreciate," Trump told The Hill website. "I do like keeping them abreast, but I don't have to do it legally."

As the popular Defense bill was making its way through the Senate, Democrats vowed to hold back their support unless McConnell agreed to debate the war powers. The defense bill was roundly approved Thursday on a vote of 86-8.

Top Senate Democrat Chuck Schumer of New York assembled his caucus earlier this week. In a series of closed-door meetings, he argued that Congress had ceded too much authority to presidents of both parties, according to a person granted anonymity to discuss the private sessions. Schumer said the amendment would prohibit funds to be used for hostilities with Iran without the OK of Congress.

Marine testifies Navy SEAL did not stab Iraq captive

Associated Press

SANDIEGO—A Marine who worked jointly in Iraq with a decorated Navy SEAL accused of murder testified Thursday that the platoon chief did not stab a wounded teenage Islamic State prisoner as alleged by other platoon members.

Marine Staff Sgt. Giorgio Kirylo said he watched as Special Operations Chief Edward Gallagher tried to save the 17-year-old captive and never saw him use his hunting knife on him.

Gallagher is accused of fatally stabbing the adolescent captive while he was under Gallagher's care in Iraq in 2017 and to shooting civilians. He has pleaded not guilty to mur-

der and attempted murder.

After the boy died, Kirylo said he moved the corpse to pose for a "cool guy trophy" photo because it was the platoon's first Islamic State prisoner captured from their battlefield.

He said he lifted up the teen's body to put the corpse's head on his foot when a bandage on his neck popped up. Kirylo testified that he saw no stab wounds under the dressing.

He said each member of the platoon took turns posing with the body, and no one was upset.

He said the platoon members took turns taking photos with the body because they were excited that they had coordinated an air strike with Iraqi troops

that had killed Islamic State fighters including the captive's commander. "This was our unofficial war trophy," the Marine Raider said.

Kirylo statements contradict those of SEALs who testified that Gallagher, who was on his eighth deployment, stabbed the prisoner.

Two of the SEALs testified that they witnessed the stabbing, but one — Corey Scott — said he was the one who ultimately killed the militant by plugging his breathing tube with his thumb as an act of mercy.

The Navy said it is reviewing Scott's statements following his testimony last week and it may

press perjury charges.

Kirylo said he was close friends with several SEALs who reported the stabbing, but he now considers them liars.

Many of the SEALs who testified said their names were made public and spread on social media because they came out against the chief.

Kirylo described the team as full of young SEALs who complained about Gallagher putting them close to the front lines and stealing their care packages. He described Gallagher as an "old school" SEAL whose aggressive style was forcing ISIS fighters to come "out of the woodwork into a shooting gallery."

G-20 leaders clash over old values

Associated Press

OSAKA, Japan — World leaders attending a Group of 20 summit in Japan that began Friday are clashing over the values that have served for decades as the foundation of their cooperation as they face calls to fend off threats to economic growth.

“A free and open economy is the basis for peace and prosperity,” Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told his counterparts in opening the two-day G-20 meeting, which comes as leaders grapple with profound tensions over trade, globalization and the collapsing nuclear deal with Iran.

While groups like the G-20 endeavor to forge consensus on broad policy approaches and geopolitical topics, they also are divided on an array of issues.

Defying Chinese warnings not to bring up the issue of recent protests in Hong Kong, Abe told Chinese President Xi Jinping it was important for “a free and open Hong Kong to prosper under ‘one country, two systems’ policy,” Japanese officials said, referring to the arrangement for the former British colony’s autonomy when China took control in 1997.

They said Abe reminded Xi of the importance of guaranteeing freedom, human rights, the “rule of law” and other universal values in raising concern over proposed Hong Kong legislation that would allow some criminal suspects to be extradited for trial in mainland China. The bill, now shelved, prompted protests by hundreds of thousands of Hong Kong residents and minor demonstrations elsewhere in Asia, including Osaka.

Xi is not the only leader facing a push-back from his Western counterparts.

European Union Council President Donald Tusk blasted Russian President Vladimir Putin for saying in an interview with the Financial Times newspaper that liberalism was “obsolete” and conflicts with the “overwhelming majority” in many countries.

“We are here as Europeans also to firmly and unequivocally defend and promote liberal democracy,” Tusk told reporters. “What I find really obsolete are: authoritarianism, personality cults, the rule of oligarchs, even if sometimes they may seem effective.”

Tusk told reporters that such comments suggest a belief that “freedoms are obsolete, that the rule of law is obsolete and that human rights are obsolete.”

Putin praised President Donald Trump for his efforts to try to stop the flow of migrants and drugs from Mexico and said that liberalism “presupposes that nothing needs to be done. That migrants can kill, plunder and rape with impunity because their rights as migrants have to be protected.”

Trump has at times found himself at odds with other leaders in such international events, particularly on issues such as Iran, climate change and trade.

At a meeting on the G-20 sidelines, Putin, Xi and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi agreed on the need to rely on international law, respect national sovereignty and refrain from interference in the internal affairs of other nations, Putin said.

Such statements are a swipe at Trump’s “America First” approach in rejecting multilateral initiatives but also draw a line against criticism of authoritarian governments like China’s and Russia’s.

Outgoing general warns of growing African threat

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Maj. Gen. Marcus Hicks, who led U.S. special operations troops in Africa during a tumultuous 2-year tenure, warned during a change of command Friday that security conditions are deteriorating in Western Africa, a region where four U.S. troops were killed at the start of his time in command.

Brig. Gen. Dag Anderson, who previously served at U.S. Pacific Command, said during brief comments that he would build upon progress Hicks had made. Both are Air Force generals.

Hicks spoke through tears during the emotional ceremony at Special Operations Command Africa’s Stuttgart headquarters as he recounted

the names of troops lost in combat operations.

An Oct. 4, 2017 ambush in Niger left four U.S. soldiers dead: Sgt. 1st Class Jeremiah Johnson, Staff Sgt. Dustin Wright, Staff Sgt. Bryan Black and Sgt. LaDavid Johnson. Another soldier, Staff Sgt. Alexander Conrad, was killed in 2018 during operations in Somalia.

The 2017 ambush near the Nigerien village of Tongo Tongo was a defining moment during Hicks’ command.

The ambush “sparked a debate about U.S. security policy in western Africa. It continues to this day,” Hicks said. “The events became all the more tragic [when focus shifted] from the obvious question of what happened to who’s at fault, also a debate that continues to this day.”

Ex-Green Beret pleads not guilty in murder trial

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Army Maj. Matthew Golsteyn pleaded not guilty in a military court Thursday to allegations that he wrongfully killed an unarmed Afghan man in Helmand province almost a decade ago, Army officials said Friday.

Golsteyn is a former Green Beret officer charged with a single count of premeditated murder in the Feb. 22, 2010 shooting death of an Afghan man named Rasoul. Golsteyn has long admitted the killing in interviews with media and Army investigators, but he has for years maintained it was justified in wartime, identifying the man as a Taliban bombmaker responsible for the deaths four days earlier of two Marines under his command.

The Army, in charging documents filed in December, contends Golsteyn ambushed the man after he was released from American custody for questioning, executed him and later destroyed the man’s body in a burn pit on a forward operating base. Golsteyn told the Washington Post in February that Rasoul was returning to the Taliban, making him a legal target at the time of the killing.

Phillip Stackhouse, Golsteyn’s civilian attorney, entered the plea for his client during his arraignment in a Fort Bragg, N.C., courtroom Thursday morning.

“It’s very disappointing the Army took this action, second guessing Maj. Golsteyn’s decision-making on the battleground,” Stackhouse said Friday.

Rivals target Biden as Dems' rifts emerge

Associated Press

MIAMI — Democratic divisions over race, age and ideology burst into public view in Thursday night's presidential debate, punctuated by a heated exchange between former Vice President Joe Biden and California Sen. Kamala Harris.

It was one of several moments that left Biden, 76, who entered the night as his party's early front-runner, on the defensive as he works to convince voters he's still in touch with the modern Democratic Party and best-positioned to deny President Donald Trump a second term.

"I do not believe you are a racist," Harris said to Biden before criticizing his record of working with Democratic segregationist senators on non-race issues as "hurtful."

Biden called Harris' criticism "a complete mischaracterization of my record." He declared, "I ran because of civil rights" and later accused the Trump administration of embracing racism.

The night marked an abrupt turning point in a Democratic primary in which candidates have largely tiptoed around each other, focusing instead on their shared desire to beat Trump. With millions of Americans peeking inside the Democrats' unruly 2020 season for the first time, the showdown re-

vealed deep rifts eight months before primary voting begins.

The showdown featured four of the five strongest candidates — according to early polls, at least. Those are Biden, Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, Mayor Pete Buttigieg of South Bend, Ind., and Harris. Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who debated Wednesday night, is the fifth.

There are so many candidates lining up to take on Trump that they do not all fit on one debate stage — or even two. Twenty Democrats debated on national television this week in two waves of 10, while a handful more were left out altogether.

Trump, who was attending the Group of 20 summit in Japan, still found time to weigh in on the debate and jab his rivals, claiming it didn't go well for Biden or Sanders. Trump tweeted Friday that he heard it was "not a good day" for them.

The level of diversity on display on the debate stage was unprecedented for a major political party in the United States. The field features six women, two African Americans, one Asian American and two men under 40, one of them gay.

Harris is the only African American woman to qualify for the presidential debate stage and showed she could land a forceful attack on rivals.

Any of the three women fea-

tured Thursday night would be the first ever elected president. Yet in the early days of the campaign, two white septuagenarians are leading the polls: Biden and Sanders.

Buttigieg, a 37-year-old gay former military officer, is four decades younger than Sanders and Biden and has framed his candidacy as a call for generational change in his party.

He displayed a fluency on a range of policy issues and hit hard on efforts by Republican Trump to stifle the flow of illegal immigration at the Mexican border.

"For a party that associates itself with Christianity to say it is OK to suggest that God would smile on the division of families at the hands of federal agents, that God would condone putting children in cages," that party "has lost all claim to ever use religious language," he said.

The party's broader fight over ideology took a back seat at times to its racial and generational divisions, which also flared when the discussion turned to health care.

Sanders, the self-described democratic socialist, slapped at his party's centrist candidates, vowing to fight for "real change." He raised his hand to indicate he would give up his private insurance coverage in favor of a government-financed plan.

Most of the candidates on

stage didn't join him.

Buttigieg's night was defined in part by trouble back home that has represented the most significant leadership test in his young political career. The fresh-faced mayor faced tough questions about a recent police shooting in his city in which a white officer shot and killed a black man. He said an investigation was underway and acknowledged the underlying racial tensions in his city and others.

Little-known California Rep. Eric Swalwell, who is just 38 years old, was among Buttigieg's chief critics. He also took a swipe at Biden's advanced age.

Others on the stage Thursday night included Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand of New York, who tried to elbow her way into the packed debate at times, Sen. Michael Bennet of Colorado, New York businessman Andrew Yang, author and social activist Marianne Williamson and former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper.

The showdown played out in Florida, a general election battleground that could well determine whether Trump wins a second term next year.

Their first round of debates is finished, but the real struggle is just beginning for most of the candidates.

Political tweets could be slapped with warning labels

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Presidents and other world leaders and political figures who use Twitter to threaten or abuse others could find their tweets slapped with warning labels.

The new policy, announced by the company on Thursday, comes amid complaints from activists and others that President Donald Trump has gotten a free pass from Twitter to post hateful messages and attack his enemies in ways they say could lead to violence.

From now on, a tweet that Twitter deems to involve matters of public interest but

which violates the service's rules will be obscured by a warning explaining the violation. Users will have to tap through the warning to see the underlying message, but the tweet won't be removed, as Twitter might do with a regular person's posts.

Twitter said the policy applies to all government officials, candidates and similar public figures with more than 100,000 followers. In addition to applying the label, Twitter won't use its algorithms to "elevate" or otherwise promote such tweets.

"It's a step in the right direction," said Keegan Hankes, research analyst for the Southern Poverty Law Center's Intelligence Project, who focuses on far-right ex-

tremist propaganda online. But, he added, Twitter is essentially arguing "that hate speech can be in the public interest. I am arguing that hate speech is never in the public interest."

Twitter refused to comment on whether any of Trump's past tweets violated its rules and would not say what role, if any, his Twitter activity played in the creation of the new warning-label policy.

The new stance could fuel additional Trumpian ire toward social media. The president routinely complains, without evidence, that social media sites are biased against him and other conservatives.

House sends \$4.6B border bill to Trump

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Democratic-controlled House voted Thursday to send President Donald Trump a bipartisan, Senate-drafted, \$4.6 billion measure to care for migrant refugees detained at the southern border, capping a Washington skirmish in which die-hard liberals came out on the losing end in a battle with the White House, the GOP-held Senate and Democratic moderates.

The emergency legislation, required to ease overcrowded, often harsh conditions at U.S. holding facilities for migrants seeking asylum, mostly from Central American nations such as Honduras and El Salvador, passed by a bipartisan 305-102 vote. Trump has indicated he'll sign it into law.

"A great job done by all!" Trump tweeted

from his overseas trip.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., reluctantly brought the Senate bill to a vote by after her plan to further strengthen rules for treatment of migrant refugees ran into intractable opposition from Republican lawmakers and Vice President Mike Pence. Many moderate Democrats split with Pelosi as well, undercutting her earlier efforts, which faded shortly after Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said he would swiftly reject them.

The legislation contains more than \$1 billion to shelter and feed migrants detained by the border patrol and almost \$3 billion to care for unaccompanied migrant children who are turned over the Department of Health and Human Services. It rejects an administration request for additional Immigration and Customs Enforcement

detention beds, however, and contains provisions designed to prevent federal immigration agents from going after immigrants living in the country illegally who seek to care for unaccompanied children.

The funding is urgently needed to prevent the humanitarian emergency on the U.S.-Mexico border from worsening. The government had warned that money would run out in a matter of days.

The Senate bill passed Wednesday by an 84-8 vote.

The measure was initially only reluctantly accepted by the White House — which complained about elimination of the request for detention beds for immigrants facing removal from the U.S. — but GOP support grew after the measure presented an opportunity to outmaneuver Pelosi. Just seven Republicans opposed the bill.

Pregnant Ala. woman charged in fetal death

Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — An Alabama district attorney's office hasn't decided whether to prosecute a woman indicted for manslaughter after she lost her fetus when she was shot during a fight.

Marshae Jones was five months pregnant when Ebony Jemison, 23, shot her in the stomach during a December altercation over the fetus' father, authorities said.

Jemison was initially charged with manslaughter, but a Jefferson County grand jury declined to indict her after police said an investigation determined Jones started the fight and that Jemison ultimately fired in self-defense. Jones, 28, was indicted by that same grand jury Wednesday.

The indictment stated Jones did "intentionally cause the death" of "Unborn Baby Jones by initiating a fight knowing she was five months pregnant."

However, the office of District Attorney Lynneice O. Washington said there has been no decision on whether to pursue the case against Jones.

With Washington out of the country, her chief assistant district attorney Valerie Hicks Powe put out a statement expressing "sympathy for all the families involved, including Mrs. Jones, who lost her unborn child."

Both prosecutors are African-American women; Washington took office in 2017 as the first black female district attorney to be elected in Alabama.

While the grand jury "had its say," Powe said the office has "not yet made a determination about whether to prosecute it as a manslaughter case, reduce it to a lesser charge or not to prosecute it." She promised a thorough review and "an outcome that is most just for all the parties involved."

"Foremost, it should be stated that this is a truly tragic case, resulting in the death of an unborn child," she said. "The fact that this tragedy was 100 percent avoidable makes this case even more disheartening."

Pleasant Grove police Lt. Danny Reid had called the fetus "the only true victim," brought unnecessarily into a fight and "dependent on its mother to try to keep it from harm."

Advocates for women's rights expressed outrage over Jones' arrest.

Lynn Paltrow, executive director of National Advocates for Pregnant Women, said women across the country have been prosecuted for manslaughter or murder for having an abortion or experiencing a miscarriage. She said Alabama currently leads the nation in charging women for crimes related to their pregnancies.

Fugitive owner of 'attack squirrel' arrested in chase

Associated Press

KILLEN, Ala. — An Alabama man who denied feeding methamphetamine to a so-called "attack squirrel" he considered a pet has been arrested on new charges.

The Limestone County sheriff's Office tweeted that Mickey Paulk, 35, was caught Thursday night following a chase in which he rammed an investigator's vehicle. Authorities had been seeking Paulk

on multiple felony warrants unrelated to the squirrel he named "Deeznutz," which was made infamous after police said they were warned about a meth-fueled squirrel that had been trained to attack.

Paulk told The Associated Press last week that he was working on a plan for turning himself in to authorities.

The sheriff's office said narcotics investigators caught up with him while surveilling a motel in Killen. They spotted Paulk

leaving on a stolen motorcycle and chased him down.

Paulk has been booked into the Lauderdale County Jail on charges of attempting to elude, criminal mischief, receiving stolen property and felon in possession of a pistol after it was discovered he had a .45-caliber handgun in his waistband.

As for Deeznutz, authorities say he couldn't be tested for meth and has been released.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Court upholds piano lesson dispute award

WA SELAH — A state appeals court said a Selah man so outrageously tormented his neighbor by revving his truck engine for months because he didn't want her to teach piano lessons that the \$40,000 she was awarded was justified.

The Yakima Herald-Republic reported in a published 2-1 ruling filed Tuesday, a panel of the Spokane-based Division III Court of Appeals found that Paul Patnode's actions against Junghee Kim Spicer's Yakima Arts Academy warranted the award.

Court documents said the inharmonious relationship started in 2012, when Spicer increased the number of piano lessons she gave.

From November 2015 through March 2016, Patnode parked his Ford F-250 diesel pickup next to Spicer's home and remotely raced the engine and set off the vehicle's alarm when students came over.

Officer shoots, kills sword-wielding man

VA TIMBERVILLE — Virginia authorities said a police officer shot and killed a man who wielded a sword and tried to attack them.

News outlets obtained a release by Timberville police that said the agency responded to a domestic situation at a home Wednesday night. Investigators said Michael S. Norquest, 50, had barricaded himself inside the home and reportedly attacked an officer with a sword when the officer entered.

The officer shot Norquest, who died on the scene. News outlets report the officer was brought to the hospital, where

he was treated for serious injuries and was later released.

Police: Arsonist may have targeted home

GA ATLANTA — An Atlanta police union representative said someone may have tried to burn down an officer's new home.

News outlets report investigators said someone threw a makeshift firebomb, including a rock and some liquid, through a window, causing a fire early Thursday morning in the home the officer had just bought.

Atlanta Police Union national representative Ken Allen told news outlets he thinks the officer was targeted because of her job.

Would-be child robbers flee on bikes

NC RALEIGH — Police in North Carolina said a 10-year-old and a teen tried to rob a group of pedestrians before fleeing on BMX-style bicycles.

The North Carolina State University Police issued a news release saying the children approached three pedestrians early Thursday along a sidewalk on the edge of campus.

Police said one of the boys displayed a knife and demanded money.

Police described it as an attempted robbery and issued a campuswide alert.

Rare golden eagle nest found at park

CA THOUSAND OAKS — Biologists at a national park in Southern California have found a pair of golden eagle chicks — the first seen there in decades.

The National Park Service

announced Wednesday that a nest containing the pair of 12-week-old chicks was found in March in a cave in the Santa Monica Mountains.

It's the first golden eagle nest confirmed in the mountains since the late 1980s. Sightings of adult birds also have been rare.

The chicks, a male and a female, were given ankle bands to help scientists monitor them.

Police see uptick in purse snatchings

WA TACOMA — Authorities are warning shoppers in the Seattle and Tacoma areas to be careful at store parking lots after seeing an uptick in purse snatchings.

The News Tribune reported this week that more than 60 bags have been reported stolen outside department stores and supermarkets in Pierce and King counties since the beginning of the year.

Tacoma police had recorded 19 stolen purses as of late April.

Man convicted of odometer tampering

VA POWHATAN — A Virginia man could face prison time for involvement in a scheme to tamper with the odometers on about 50 vehicles, in one case rolling back more than 100,000 miles from a log.

The Richmond Times-Dispatch reported Michael Carey Eubank, 52, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to alter a motor vehicle odometer Monday.

Charging documents accuse Eubank of using his automotive electronics repair shop to act as a co-conspirator in a scheme that boosted the value of vehicles by as much as \$10,000

by making it appear they had fewer miles.

Another co-conspirator, Lawson Basnight, 49, pleaded guilty to the same charge last year and was sentenced to 18 months in prison. Basnight must also pay \$400,000 to victims for repair costs.

Burro overpopulation a crisis, official says

AZ KINGMAN — A Mohave County official is calling the overpopulation of burros in the Black Mountain herd management area a crisis.

The Kingman Daily Miner reported Mohave County Board of Supervisors' Chairman Hildy Angius last week described the conditions of burros as "inhumane" and said many face starvation.

Angius said the Black Mountains area can sustain less than 500 burros of 2,000 that call the area home.

7-foot eyeball comes to children's museum

IL DECATUR — For those kids looking to step inside a 7-foot eyeball, the Children's Museum of Illinois is the place to go.

The (Decatur) Herald & Review reported the display called "Peek Inside" that allows visitors to see the eye from the inside out will be open to the public within a few days.

The exhibit is the idea of Dr. John Lee, a local ophthalmologist. He designed it hoping that if people know more about the eye and eye diseases, they will be better equipped to spot those diseases in time to protect their sight.

From wire reports

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All-Star lineups packed with young talent

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Surrounded by sweet-swinging sluggers Christian Yelich, Cody Bellinger and Ronald Acuna Jr., All-Star stalwart Nolan Arenado is set for a new role with the National League — elder statesman.

“It shows how good these young guys are,” Arenado said.

The five-time All-Star will be joined by a bumper crop of talent in one of the youngest All-Star Game lineups ever — a millennial-heavy NL group that could make history at the midsummer showcase in Cleveland on July 9.

Major League Baseball revealed the results from fan balloting for its All-Star starters Thursday, and the average age of the eight NL starters is 25.8 years old. Depending on who is chosen as the club’s designated hitter, the starting position players could be the youngest ever, surpassing the 1967 NL and 2017 AL clubs, which averaged 26.0 years old.

“I’ve never seen this much young talent in the game,” said Dodgers manager Dave Roberts, who will lead the NL.

“There’s a lot of fun players to watch,” Roberts continued. “Talented, and the personalities from some of these young players.”

Angels star Mike Trout was the leading vote getter in the final round. He’ll be joined on the AL squad by three Astros — Alex Bregman, George Springer and Michael Brantley — and two Yankees — Gary Sanchez and DJ LeMahieu.

The lineups are full of unlikely names. LeMahieu didn’t crack New York’s opening day lineup. Rangers designated hitter Hunter Pence could only find a minor

league contract as a free agent last offseason. Diamondbacks second baseman Ketel Marte and Twins shortstop Jorge Polanco hardly garnered All-Star attention in previous years. Now they’re All-Star starters.

“It was quite a wild journey from this year to last year,” Pence said. “And to even be speaking about this now, is a miracle. It’s a blessing, and I’m very grateful.”

The NL’s oldest elected starters are 29-year-old Freddie Freeman from Atlanta and 28-year-old Arenado of Colorado.

“Some of these young players are unbelievable players,” Arenado said. “We’re fortunate to be in this time, when you get to see how good they are.”

Indians first baseman Carlos Santana was elected to start in his home park in the 33-year-old’s first All-Star selection. He’ll be joined in the lineup by Brantley, a former teammate who left the Indians in free agency last offseason for a \$32 million, two-year deal with Houston. Brantley edged Yankees slugger Aaron Judge by 0.9% for the final outfield spot.

The Cubs’ Willson Contreras and Javier Baez will each start for the NL for the second straight year. Baez was elected at shortstop a year after starting at second. Only three other All-Stars have started in consecutive years at different positions.

Trout is set to be the sixth AL player to start six times before turning 28. The others are Joe DiMaggio, Mickey Mantle, Ivan Rodriguez, Rod Carew and Ken Griffey Jr. It’s Trout’s eighth straight selection overall.

“I just enjoy going to them,” he said. “Every year it seems like I am slowing it down and embracing the experience. The first couple I was running around and it went so fast.”

Yelich was second in voting behind Trout. He homered in last year’s All-Star Game, then staged a second-half tear that ended in him winning NL MVP. He’s been just as good in 2019, leading the majors with 29 homers while hitting .332 with a 1.149 OPS.

“In spring, there were a lot of questions if I could do it again,” Yelich said. “Was it a fluke? Am I a good player? That stuff kind of lights a fire in me.”

“I didn’t know how the year was going to go, but I wasn’t going to look back on last year and think anything was guaranteed. Just because you’re an MVP the previous year, you’re not going to just walk through the next year and everything was going to be fine.”

The league adopted a new balloting structure this season, which operated exclusively through Google. Fans voted up until June 21 to determine finalists for All-Star starters. The top three vote getters at each position — top nine in the outfield — in each league then entered a second phase of voting, which ran Wednesday and Thursday. Vote totals were reset prior to the final round.

Fans elected the nine starting players for the AL team and eight for the NL — with the extra AL player being the designated hitter. The rest of the 32-man rosters for each league, including the DH for the National League, will be determined by player balloting and selections from the Commissioner’s Office. Those All-Stars will be announced Sunday.

The first All-Star Game was in 1933 in Chicago. All-Star starters have been elected by fans since 1970. Balloting was moved exclusively online in 2015.

NBA memo says coaches’ challenges coming

Associated Press

NBA coaches likely will be challenging one call per game next season.

The league told teams Friday that, pending expected approval by the board of governors on July 9, coaches may challenge a personal foul charged to their team, a called out-of-bounds violation, a goaltending violation or a basket-interference violation. No other call may be challenged.

“We anticipate this rule will be in effect in the NBA next

season as a one-year pilot program,” NBA Basketball Operations President Byron Spruell told teams in the memo, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press. ESPN first reported the memo’s contents.

The NBA already has a challenge program in place in the G League and tinkered with it during summer league last year. It will be used during all three summer leagues this season — the four-team league in Sacramento and Salt Lake City that open Monday, and the one in Las Vegas that opens July 5.

Unlike the NFL version of a challenge, there’s no flag to be used and teams will not retain them even if successful. A team will have to call timeout and the coach “must immediately signal for a challenge by twirling his/her index finger toward the referees,” the memo said.

A challenge must come immediately after the play and challenges of out-of-bounds calls, goaltending or basket interference will not be permitted in the last two minutes of the fourth quarter or the last two minutes of overtime.

“As with other replay reviews, in order to overturn the event as called on the floor, there must be clear and conclusive visual evidence that the call was incorrect,” the memo said.

If the challenge is unsuccessful, the team will lose its timeout. If the challenge is upheld, no timeout will be charged.

Also likely coming to the league: Instant replay can be triggered by officials in the review center in Secaucus, New Jersey, without the involvement of the on-court crew.

Kimbrel closes out his debut with Cubs

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Craig Kimbrel got a little help settling in at Wrigley Field.

Kimbrel dodged trouble for a save in his season debut when new teammate Anthony Rizzo dived into first base for the final out, and the Chicago Cubs rallied from five runs down to beat the Atlanta Braves 9-7 on Thursday.

“The first one’s always the tough one,” Kimbrel said.

Called up from Triple-A earlier in the day, Kimbrel struck out Brian McCann looking and induced a groundout from Johan Camargo to start the ninth inning. Ronald Acuna Jr. then hit a ground-rule double

into Wrigley Field’s ivy, and Dansby Swanson walked on four pitches.

Freddie Freeman grounded sharply down the first-base line, and Rizzo fielded and had to dive for the bag to beat Freeman after Kimbrel failed to cover first.

“I feel like I’m still ramping up a little bit” Kimbrel said. “It might be a little bit until I’m full bore with all I got, but right now it felt pretty good.”

Kimbrel earned his 334th career save and did it against his original team. The Cubs finalized a \$43 million, three-year contract with the 31-year-old free agent on June 7, then sent the right-hander to the minors

to get himself ready.

He hadn’t pitched in the majors since facing the Dodgers in the World Series as a member of the Boston Red Sox.

Victor Caratini’s two-run homer capped the Cubs’ four-run fifth inning that put them ahead for good. Kyle Schwarber also went deep for Chicago, which got three RBIs from Jason Heyward on a warm day at Wrigley Field with steady wind blowing out to left.

Freeman hit his 22nd homer, a two-run shot, and Ozzie Albies continued to feast on Cubs pitching with a solo drive and single for two RBIs. Swanson drove in three in the final regular-season game between

the NL Central and NL East leaders.

Freeman had a hunch he’d face Kimbrel, his teammate in Atlanta from 2010-14.

“Things were just kind of going to fall into place for him to get into the game,” Freeman said. “Craig looked good. I think he was in the 98 (mph) area today.”

Chicago starter Tyler Chatwood (4-1) escaped with the win despite allowing six runs, six hits and four walks through five innings. Josh Tomlin (1-1) took the loss after Atlanta starter Bryse Wilson allowed six runs (four earned) in 4 1/3 innings after being called up from Triple-A.

MLB roundup

Segura’s walk-off homer helps Phils complete sweep

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Jean Segura hit a three-run, walk-off homer against Edwin Diaz moments after Maikel Franco hit a tying, two-run shot against the closer in the bottom of the ninth inning, and the Philadelphia Phillies beat the New York Mets 6-3 Thursday to complete a four-game sweep.

New York’s Todd Frazier hit a go-ahead, two-run homer off Hector Neris with one out in the ninth, but the Phillies rallied in the bottom of the inning — their fourth straight win since utility man Brad Miller brought a bamboo plant into the clubhouse as a good-luck charm.

Diaz (1-5) walked Cesar Hernandez to start, and Franco followed with his third homer of the series. He hit go-ahead, two-run homers in each of the first two games. Pinch-hitter Sean Rodriguez walked with one out and advanced to second on Scott Kingery’s hard-hit, bad-hop single off Frazier’s glove at third.

Segura then slammed his 10th homer into the seats in left.

He leaped on his way down the first-base line and got mobbed by teammates after circling the bases.

It was Philadelphia’s first four-game sweep against the Mets since Aug. 27-30, 2007.

Rays 5, Twins 2 (18): Yandy Diaz hit a sacrifice fly for his team in the 18th inning to break a tie that lasted since the second, and Tampa Bay finally pulled away to avoid being swept in a series by host Minnesota for the first time in 13 years.

Ryan Yarbrough (7-3), the eighth reliever and the 22nd player used by the Rays during the game that lasted 5:42 after rain delayed the first pitch by 57 minutes, threw three scoreless innings for the victory.

Nationals 8, Marlins 5: Juan Soto and Victor Robles each homered as visiting Washington rallied to beat Miami and sweep a three-game series.

Robles and Matt Adams homered against starter Sandy Alcántara (4-7) during a five-run sixth inning that erased a 4-1 deficit. Kurt Suzuki also went deep, and Trea Turner had two hits and two stolen bases for

the Nationals, who have won 8 of 10.

Stephen Strasburg (9-4) won his 10th straight decision against Miami after allowing four runs and seven hits in seven innings. He struck out four on a season-high 111 pitches. He hasn’t lost in Miami since 2015.

Brewers 4, Mariners 2: Orlando Arcia hit a three-run homer and host Milwaukee avoided a three-game sweep with a win over Seattle.

Pirates 10, Astros 0: Josh Bell homered for the second straight game as one of five home runs by the visitors as Pittsburgh routed Houston for the second straight game.

Former Astro Joe Musgrove (6-7) threw six scoreless innings for the win and Kevin Newman, Corey Dickerson, Starling Marte and Jacob Stallings added home runs for the Pirates to send Houston to its ninth loss in 11 games.

Rangers 3, Tigers 1: Joey Gallo hit two solo homers and Ariel Jurado threw seven shut-out innings and Texas completed a three-game sweep of host Detroit.

Angels 8, Athletics 3: Shohei Ohtani and Kole Calhoun each hit two-run homers, Griffin Canning allowed only three hits over six innings and host Los Angeles beat Oakland for its fourth straight win.

Dodgers 12, Rockies 8: Chris Taylor drove in the go-ahead run with a bloop single as part of a four-run ninth, Max Muncy hit two of his team’s six homers and visiting Los Angeles won its 12th straight over Colorado.

It was another late-inning win over the Rockies for the Dodgers, who also got a three-run homer from pinch-hitter Kike Hernandez in the ninth. Los Angeles won three straight home games against Colorado last weekend — all in walk-off fashion.

Diamondbacks 5, Giants 1: Arizona’s Nick Ahmed hit a go-ahead home run leading off the fifth, Carson Kelly added a two-run shot in the seventh to help Alex Young beat host San Francisco in his major league debut.

Young (1-0), allowed two hits and one run, struck out five with one walk in five innings.

England moves on to World Cup semis

Associated Press

LE HAVRE, France — As England practiced a set-piece routine hours before facing Norway, defender Lucy Bronze was determined to apply the finishing touch.

“I’ll hit it tonight,” Bronze told coach Phil Neville, “because I’ll score.”

She certainly did, sealing a 3-0 victory on Thursday night after helping set up the first two goals to get England into its second straight Women’s World Cup semifinal.

After first-half goals from Jill Scott and Ellen White, Bronze’s chance came in the 57th minute.

With England preparing to take a free kick on the left side, Norway was expecting it to be swung into the penalty area. But Beth Mead hit Bronze, who was at the edge of the penalty area alone, and the right back connected, raising the ball high into the roof of the net with a fierce shot.

“We worked on that set play and Keira Walsh should have been hitting,” Neville said.

But the coach listened to Bronze.

“We have seen the space was there and then I just had the ball right,” Bronze said. “It was going to go in the back of the net and thankfully it did.”

It showed why Neville has such faith in the right back, who plays for Lyon — the site of the semifinals and final.

“What you have seen tonight is that Lucy Bronze is the best player in the world,” Neville said. “There is no player like her in the world, no player who has her athleticism and quality. I played full back but never to that level she played at.”

Nodding in approval from the stands was David Beckham, who high-fived Sue Campbell, the head of women’s soccer in England.

While Beckham never made it past a quarterfinal as a player for the England men’s team, the Lionesses are now in their third successive semifinal after also making the final four at the 2017 European Championship.

“That gave them a sense over how special the performances have been,” Neville said.

England is now two games away from winning its first major women’s title.

“I said to them in the huddle,

‘Are you ready to win a World Cup?’” Neville said.

After finishing third at the last tournament four years ago, England will now face either France or the United States on Tuesday.

The first goal came after only two minutes and nine seconds in front of a crowd of more than 21,000. Bronze muscled her way down the right flank before cutting the ball back. White missed a shot but Jill Scott was primed to strike in off the post.

White did get her fifth goal of the tournament in the 40th minute. Played in by Bronze, Nikita Parris hit White racing between the Norway center backs to receive the pass and sweep it into the net.

“We’re playing a type of (women’s) football no other team has played before,” Neville said. “They have glazed eyes, I can see that. I’m lucky. I’m just the coach. They go out and play with courage, bravery, play the right way. We’ve said it’s non-negotiable. We’re having fun and we don’t want to go home.”

The support from home is growing.

A video message from retired rowing champion Katherine Grainger, Britain’s most decorated female Olympian, was played in the team meeting attended by Beckham.

“It gave you goosebumps,” Neville said, “about what it takes to win.”

A virus made the path to victory in Stade Ocean more difficult.

Despite a concerning medical update from Neville on the eve of the game about Millie Bright’s illness, she made the starting lineup.

So did her central defensive partner Steph Houghton, who was doubtful after sustaining an ankle injury in the round of 16 victory over Cameroon.

The victory margin could have been greater had Parris not had a penalty kick saved. After netting from the spot in the opening game against Scotland, she was also denied against Argentina in the group stage.

Neville has no qualms about keeping her on penalty duty.

“She is our best taker,” Neville said. “She will be beating herself up for not scoring but shouldn’t.”

Source: Lakers sending 3 players, draft pick to Wizards

Associated Press

The Los Angeles Lakers’ price tag for Anthony Davis got a little steeper on Thursday, with the trade-off being that the team now has the flexibility to bring another max-contract star to play alongside him and LeBron James next season.

A person with knowledge of the negotiations told The Associated Press that the Lakers will send Moritz Wagner, Issac Bonga, Jemerrio Jones and a future second-round pick to the Washington Wizards as part of the deal that will bring Davis to Los Angeles. The Wizards will send cash to the New Orleans Pelicans in the deal, said the person who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because

the agreement cannot be finalized until July 6.

The trade was first reported by ESPN, and the cash element was first reported by The Washington Post.

Shedding those contracts — along with Davis waiving his \$4 million trade kicker, as ESPN reported — will give the Lakers enough cap space to sign a max player, if they are so inclined.

They could also spread that cap space out among multiple players, which could be the more prudent move considering the Lakers have virtually an entire roster to fill. Once this trade is executed, the Lakers will have only James, Davis and Kyle Kuzma under contract

for next season, not counting a pair of restricted free agents.

The Lakers agreed earlier this month to acquire Davis from New Orleans for Lonzo Ball, Josh Hart, Brandon Ingram and three first-round draft picks — one of them being De’Andre Hunter, who was chosen by the Lakers on draft night and will then be traded to New Orleans and flipped from there to the Atlanta Hawks.

Thursday’s agreement means six players and four picks were the price the Lakers paid for Davis. It technically is not a 10-for-1 move, because the newfound cap space will bring at least one other player to Los Angeles.

Antetokounmpo to play in World Cup

ATHENS, Greece — Giannis Antetokounmpo will play for Greece at this year’s basketball World Cup in China, saying Friday he can play any position.

The Milwaukee Bucks player and NBA MVP said he hasn’t “talked to the coach about which position I’ll be playing ... the important thing is to play.”

“Whether I play the 1 (point guard) or the 5 (center), I don’t care,” Antetokounmpo said. “I’m a basketball player. I want to help the team any way I can.”

The World Cup takes place from Aug. 31-Sept. 15 and Greece is one of 32 qualifiers.