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Feelings mixed about Navy rates change

BY CHRIS CHURCH

Stars and Stripes

MANAMA, Bahrain — Many sailors expressed, anger, dismay and confusion at the Navy's announcement last week that it was abandoning the service's centuries-old enlisted rating system.

Others embraced the change, as the Navy leadership hoped most would after they realize what commanders say are the advantages of the new system.

In conversations and in comments on social media, including on the U.S. Navy's Facebook page, sailors expressed frustration over the loss of tradition and called it one of the worst decisions the Navy has ever made.

Rates such as boatswain's mate and gunner's mate go back hundreds of years and are steeped in naval heritage.

"When you're a boatswain's mate it comes with a lot of pride because of what you do," said Seaman Schoanna Smith, stationed aboard the USS Mustin in Yokosuka, Japan. "Why can't we be noticed as boatswain's mates? Not everyone does the same job. We stay after work

and put in more hours than a lot of the other rates. I feel it's like saying all the rates are the same, which they aren't."

The changes under which sailors will now be addressed only by their military rank, not by their rate, went into effect immediately when they were announced Thursday. Under the new system, enlisted sailors will be grouped into broader Navy Occupational Specialties, similar to the other services.

An internet petition posted to whitehouse.gov on Thursday asking that the rating system be restored had garnered nearly 41,000 signatures by Sunday.

"One only has to visit Navy social media pages to see the disgust and outrage of current and former personnel," the petition reads. "One by one current leadership continues to erode the very things that set the Navy apart from the other services. Mr. President, I and the others signing this petition request you use your authority to restore to our Sailors what they have earned."

A spokesperson for the Chief of Naval Personnel told Stars and Stripes in a statement that

with all new initiatives, the Navy expects and seeks feedback and would continue to do so.

"This cultural change will not happen overnight," Cmdr. John Schofield said in the statement. "It will take a measured approach to make it the norm. The feedback from the sailors, be it positive, negative, or neutral, is crucial for us to assess and evolve this transformational change and push it forward."

Navy Secretary Ray Mabus had ordered the review of Navy titles in January as part of the plan to open all positions to women. The Marine Corps, which is also under Mabus' leadership, has eliminated "man" from most of its occupation titles. Many commenters on social media said they thought that was the prime reason behind the decision to drop the rate system.

The Chief of Naval Personnel's office said that the working group created to modernize the Navy's rating system considered Mabus' directive and it is reflected in the new Navy Occupational Specialties.

The Navy believes the traditional ratings system unne-

cessarily constrained enlisted career paths and the Navy's ability to make the most of talent in the workforce, Schofield said. The intent of the change is to maximize career flexibility and give sailors opportunities for training and certification that aligns with the civilian workforce.

Not everyone was opposed to the changes.

"I feel like it's a good idea, primarily because it allows us to cross-train into other fields that we wouldn't have had the chance to otherwise," said Petty Officer 1st Class Juliana Gomez, whose rate was Machinist's Mate, serving as a recruit division commander at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill. "I think our leadership did a lot of research into this before deciding this would be the best way to stay gender neutral, which seems to be one of their main goals since they brought up the subject earlier in the year. I'm excited about seeing a positive change and how this would affect us in the long run."

Stars and Stripes reporter Tyler Hlavac contributed to this report.

Afghan forces prevent attempted suicide bombing

BY CHAD GARLAND AND ZUBAIR BABAKARKHAIL

Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghan security forces foiled an attempted suicide attack by an adherent of the Islamic State group in eastern Afghanistan, officials said Sunday.

Jamil Rahman, an Islamic State loyalist, was arrested at a bus stop in Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar province, according to a statement by the National Directorate of Security, Afghanistan's main intel-

ligence agency. The statement did not specify when exactly Rahman was arrested. It said he has been involved in several attacks against Afghan forces in the Achin and Deh Bala districts of Nangarhar province.

Rahman, who is known by the nom de guerre Yasar and who joined the Afghan branch of the Islamic State group four months ago, was planning to carry out a suicide attack in a crowded area of the city after receiving training from the militant group, the statement said.

In a video the National Directorate of Security posted on social media, Rahman said he was invited to join the Islamic State group by a friend and told his family he was going abroad. Instead, he received 15 days of religion and weapons training at a camp in eastern Afghanistan before being sent to a hideout.

"I joined the fight once when the government forces arrived in the Shadal area" of Achin district, he said. Achin is the militants' stronghold in the province.

U.S. officials estimate the Islamic State group in Afghanistan has about 1,200 to 1,500 members, mostly in several districts of Nangarhar, with enclaves in neighboring Kunar province. They are primarily Pakistani Pashtuns who broke away from the Taliban, many apparently for the promise of higher pay, officials have said.

In recent months, U.S.-backed Afghan forces have been fighting the militants in Nangarhar.

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Hundreds honor man shot by police with march

Associated Press

EL CAJON, Calif. — Alfred Olango, an unarmed black man shot and killed by police in a suburb of San Diego, was remembered in a demonstration Saturday organized by clergy members and supporters of Olango's family.

Several hundred people gathered peacefully at a park in downtown El Cajon to hear speeches by religious leaders and then marched through the streets to police headquarters, where Olango's family members joined them.

"Mourning is a public sharing of grief, and his unnecessary killing has rent the fabric of our human community yet once again, and we are feeling it deeply in our hearts," said Rev. Frank Placone-Willey, of Summit Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in nearby Santee, Calif.

Olango's father, Richard Olango Abuka, called for the resignation of the police chief and said his son's death is a turning point in a peaceful struggle to change police practices. Other speakers demanded changes in how police respond to calls about people in mental distress.

There was a modest police presence to direct traffic.

The event came a day after two videos of the shooting were released by authorities, something the family and community leaders had urged.

The videos show that the officer fired four times at close range almost immediately after Olango, 38, suddenly raised both hands to chest level and took what was described as a shooting stance. In addition to the videos, police showed the 4-inch electronic cigarette device Olango had in his hands when he was shot.

The shots came less than a minute after police arrived at the scene in response to Olango's sister calling 911 and reporting he was acting erratically.

Report says Trump may not have paid taxes for 18 years

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump's business losses in 1995 were so large that they could have allowed him to avoid paying federal income taxes for as many as 18 years, according to records obtained by The New York Times.

In a story published online late Saturday, the Times said it anonymously received the first pages of Trump's 1995 state income tax filings in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. The filings show a net loss of \$915,729,293 in federal taxable income for the year.

That Trump was losing money during the early to mid-1990s — a period marked by bankruptcies and poor business decisions — was already well established. But the records show losses of such a magnitude that they potentially allowed Trump to avoid paying taxes for years, possibly until the end of the last decade.

Trump's campaign released a statement on Saturday lashing out at the Times for publishing the records and accused the newspaper of working to bene-

fit Democrat Hillary Clinton.

"The New York Times, like establishment media in general, is an extension of the Clinton campaign, the Democratic Party and their global special interests," the campaign said, saying Trump "has a fiduciary responsibility to ... pay no more tax than legally required."

Clinton's campaign manager, Robby Mook, said in a statement Trump apparently avoided paying taxes for two decades "while tens of millions of working families paid theirs. He calls that 'smart.'" Mook added: "Now that the gig is up, why doesn't he go ahead and release his returns to show us all how 'smart' he really is?"

In its story, the Times said the three pages of documents were mailed last month to a Times reporter who had written about Trump's finances. A postmark indicated they had been sent from New York City.

Former Trump accountant Jack Mitnick, whose name appears as Trump's tax preparer of the filings, confirmed their authenticity, the newspaper reported.

On the campaign trail, Trump continued to veer from scripted economic arguments to personal attacks on Clinton.

At a rally Saturday night, Trump questioned Clinton's loyalty to her husband, adding an explosive personal charge against his Democratic opponent to a turbulent week when he repeatedly veered off script.

Trump also seized on a leaked recording from a Clinton fundraiser in February, where she expressed empathy for young voters who were siding with her primary opponent, Sen. Bernie Sanders, of Vermont. Clinton called them "children of the Great Recession" and added: "And they are living in their parents' basement. They feel that they got their education, and the jobs that are available to them are not at all what they envisioned for themselves."

Trump said Saturday the audio shows Clinton "demeaning and mocking Bernie Sanders and all of his supporters" and added: "To sum up, Hillary Clinton thinks Bernie Sanders supporters are hopeless and ignorant basement dwellers."

Educated white women seen as swing voters

The Washington Post

NASHUA, N.H. — Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump are scrambling to win over female voters in America's suburbs as well-educated white women have emerged as perhaps the most pivotal swing voting group.

The Democratic and Republican presidential nominees and their surrogates are making direct appeals to female voters in campaign appearances in the suburbs of North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania and other battleground states; in TV ads on channels like Bravo and

shows like "Dancing With the Stars"; and on Facebook, where people's feeds inundate them with campaign commentary.

But polls and focus groups, as well as interviews with women in New Hampshire, show that Trump, who spent the past week haranguing a Latina former beauty queen over her weight, has a considerable challenge with many female voters.

Trump's troubles were evident here in Nashua, a commuter exurb of Boston, where six women in a knitting circle were lounging on the couches and armchairs of a yarn shop the other day talking about Trump.

They were Republicans, Democrats and independents, all of them moms and all of them ready to give him a permanent timeout.

"You just want to smack him," said Pam Harrison, 56, who voted for Republican Mitt Romney four years ago.

Female voters almost certainly will swing the election. Clinton and Trump are targeting many intersecting groups and subgroups of swing voters, but strategists for both campaigns said white women with college degrees are at the top of their lists.

Official: Terrorism regarded top threat in Southeast Asia

BY WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii — The threat of expansion of terrorist cells from the Middle East into Southeast Asia is “uppermost” in the minds of defense ministers in that region, Singapore’s defense minister said Friday.

Ng Eng Hen told reporters that dealing with Islamic State group-inspired extremists in the region had been a main topic during last week’s meeting in Hawaii of defense ministers from member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter joined the informal talks on Friday.

“Every year we meet, the situation and the threat of extremist terrorism rises,” Ng said. Compared even to a year ago, he said, the extremists are more organized.

“They are more networked,” he said. “They are more clear in their articulation of what they want to achieve.”

Earlier in the day, Carter told reporters that he’d asked the Asian Pacific Center for Security Studies to host an ASEAN counterterrorism workshop next year. He directed the center, which is located in Honolulu and is under U.S. Pacific Command, to identify “any gaps that might exist in U.S.-ASEAN cooperation on countering violent extremism — and close those gaps.”

Carter said he’d asked PACOM Commander Adm. Harry Harris to invite ASEAN partners to participate in a maritime domain-awareness exercise in 2017 to improve the sharing of information. He also has asked top officials of the U.S. Navy and the Coast Guard to hold a U.S.-ASEAN maritime dialogue next year to share best practices.

On numerous occasions, Harris has warned about the potential of Islamic State recruits returning to Asia, which he has described as the terrorist organization’s own “rebalance” to the Pacific from the Middle East.

Ng said that a “unit” of the Islamic State group in the vast Malay archipelago has “the declared goal of establishing an Islamic caliphate in our part of the world in ASEAN.”

US vets: Filipinos OK with Duterte’s drug crackdown

BY SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

U.S. veterans living in the Philippines say the new president’s bloody law-and-order crackdown has resonated with a populace that is tired of crime and supportive of his bluntly telling the world, including former colonial power the United States, to butt out while the country cleans house.

The retirees also are happy that friction between Washington and Manila hasn’t trickled down to them, with citizens separating their resentment for the U.S. government from how they feel about Americans who have chosen to live near former U.S. military facilities, such as U.S. Naval Base Subic Bay and Clark Air Base.

“They have problems with the American government, but they don’t have a problem with us individually,” said John Gilbert, 69, a retired Army first sergeant and commander of the Angeles City Veterans of Foreign Wars Post. “That’s the way we’d like to keep it.”

New Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte has clashed with President Barack Obama because of killings — either in shootouts with police or by vigilantes — that so far have claimed the lives of about 3,000 people, leaving bodies on the streets of major cities.

During the Group of 20 summit earlier this month, Duterte used a Tagalog phrase that translates roughly to “son of a whore” when asked how he’d react if Obama brought up human-rights concerns over the drug-war killings during a one-on-one meeting. Obama canceled the meeting after hearing about the insult.

When European Union officials brought up the issue, Duterte again used obscenities and accused them and Obama of hypocrisy for raising concerns about his crusade against crime while dropping bombs that have killed innocent people in the Middle East.

U.S. veterans say the root cause of crime in the Philippines is poverty. The economy has grown more than 5 percent on average during the past decade, according to the World Bank.

“You have a middle class in the Philippines that never used to exist,” Gilbert said. “It’s a greater period of change than since the Spanish came or [the United States] came.”

However, along with modern shopping malls, fast-food restaurants and smartphones, more than a quarter of the populace still lives below the poverty line, and the country has seen a blight of drugs, including crystal methamphetamine, known locally as “shabu.” In 2012, the United Nations said the country had the highest rate of meth abuse in East Asia.

“Drug crime was a big problem,” Gilbert said. “It didn’t affect those in power, so they didn’t care. It was a lower-class problem, so the folks in Manila ignored it.”

The drug problem fueled other crimes such as purse-snatching, armed robbery and a sense of lawlessness, he said.

“You have to be constantly on guard,” Gilbert said. “My daughter had her laptop stolen by a guy who rolled up on a motorcycle. Put your wallet in your front pocket and don’t wear a wristwatch.”

Expert: Putin, Abe to negotiate dispute over border

BY SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Russian President Vladimir Putin’s upcoming visit to Japan will include “full-scale negotiations” to resolve the countries’ border dispute by 2018, a Japanese foreign policy expert says.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who met with Putin last month in Vladivostok, is seeking the return of four islands

— Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan and the Habomai rocks — that are part of the Kuril island chain north of Hokkaido and were seized by Russia in the final days of World War II.

The leaders will meet again Dec. 15 in Japan’s Yamaguchi prefecture. Chances of making progress in the dispute will be helped by the fact that both leaders have been in power for years and preside over stable governments, Shinji Hyodo, director

of the Regional Studies Department at the Japanese National Institute for Defense Studies, told the Foreign Press Center Japan in Tokyo recently.

“When the Japanese prime ministers were being replaced almost every year, we didn’t expect progress on this dispute,” he said, adding that Putin and Abe want to normalize relations and conclude a formal peace treaty — something the territorial dispute has prevented.

Photos could show work on new N. Korea submarine

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — Commercial satellite imagery indicates North Korea may be building a new submarine that could launch a ballistic missile, a U.S. think tank said.

The report comes amid mounting concern that the North is making faster-than-expected progress in its weapons programs, as it has conducted two atomic tests and several missile launches, including three from a submarine, this year.

38 North, a website run by the U.S.-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies, said satellite images taken on Sept. 24 "strongly suggests" that a new naval construction program is underway at the Sinpo South Shipyard, which is located on the country's eastern coast. A large, circular component that's about 33 feet

in diameter outside a recently renovated fabrication hall could be used for the pressure hull of a new submarine, the blog said, although it stressed the evidence is not conclusive and could be related to another construction project.

If the activity is to build a new submarine, it would appear to be larger than the current, experimental vessel used in previous tests, it added.

The North test-fired a submarine-launched ballistic missile in late August that flew about 310 miles but at a high angle, suggesting it could have gone much farther. But experts say the lack of a submarine powerful enough to launch such a weapon is a significant technological challenge.

North Korea has several land-based missiles with a range that puts them within reach of U.S. bases in the region. SLBMs would increase the threat because they're harder to detect in advance.

Major storm nears Haiti

Associated Press

KINGSTON, Jamaica — Hurricane Matthew, a potentially devastating Category 4 storm, swirled across the Caribbean toward Haiti and Jamaica, where residents frantically stocked up on emergency supplies and authorities urged people to evacuate threatened areas.

Matthew is one of the most powerful Atlantic hurricanes in recent history and briefly reached the top classification, Category 5, before weakening slightly to a high-end Category 4 storm, with winds of 150 mph. It is the strongest hurricane here since Felix in 2007.

While previous forecasts had Matthew passing near or over the eastern tip of Jamaica, the latest projection has it shifting eastward and possibly striking the southwestern tip of Haiti on Monday. A hurricane warning has been issued for the impoverished country, which shares the island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic.

Deforestation has greatly increased the potential for devastating floods and landslides on Haiti, and combined with the ramshackle structure of many homes and buildings, this means that Matthew could deal a vicious blow to the country.

After passing Jamaica and Haiti, Matthew is expected to reach Cuba on Tuesday, potentially making a direct hit on the U.S. Navy base at Guantanamo Bay.

A mandatory evacuation of nonessential personnel, including about 700 family members of military personnel, was underway at the base, and everyone remaining behind was being told to take shelter, said Julie Ann Ripley, a spokeswoman. There are about 5,500 people living on the base, including 61 men held at the detention center.

The forecast track also would carry Matthew into the Bahamas, with an outside chance of a brush with Florida.

China warns S. Korea, US on THAAD system

By KIM GAMEL
AND YOO KYONG CHANG
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The United States and South Korea will "pay the price" if they deploy an advanced U.S. anti-missile battery on the divided peninsula, China's official media warned.

The statement was published Saturday, a day after the two allies announced the selection of an 18-hole golf course in the mountains above a southeastern farming region as the new site for the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system.

Washington and Seoul insist THAAD is needed solely as a defensive measure against a growing nuclear and missile threat from North Korea. Beijing fears the system's powerful radar could jeopardize its own military.

Reuters news agency reported that the ruling Communist Party's official People's Daily called THAAD a serious threat to the region's geopolitical balance.

"If the United States and South Korea harm the strategic security interests of countries in the region, including China, then they are destined to pay the price for this and receive a proper counterattack," the newspaper said in a commentary.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman used less strident terms to urge the two sides to halt THAAD's development. China "will take necessary measures to defend national security interests and regional strategic balance," Geng Shuang told a news briefing Friday in Beijing.

Despite being a traditional ally of North Korea, China signed the most recent round of U.N. Security Council sanctions aimed at pressuring Pyongyang into giving up its nuclear program. But there are questions about its willingness to implement the measures

or to agree to new ones as it has clashed with the U.S. over THAAD and disputes over the South China Sea.

However, Washington and Seoul are moving forward with plans to have THAAD in place by the end of next year, the Yonhap news agency reported Sunday.

It cited local government sources as saying the U.S. military is expected to move an operational battery with six truck-mounted launchers with eight interceptors each from Fort Bliss, Texas, to the peninsula.

U.S. Forces Korea said it could not confirm the report at this time.

South Korea's Ministry of National Defense announced Friday that the Lotte Skyhill Country Club in the southeastern Seongju region would be the "final site" for THAAD. The decision followed months of protests over the original plans to deploy the system at an artillery base in the same area.

The ministry said it plans to obtain the golf club from the Lotte Co. Ltd., one of South Korea's biggest conglomerates, after a monthlong survey determined it would satisfy environmental, construction and health concerns.

"Therefore, MND will make every effort to install THAAD within the next year in order to better defend national security and people's lives from the escalating North Korean nuclear and missiles threats," it said.

The statement did not elaborate on possible terms, saying only that discussions would be held under the Status of Forces Agreement it holds with the U.S. for granted land and design and construction.

Washington and Seoul agreed in July to deploy THAAD to work in combination with Patriot missiles and other weapons to defend the South against North Korea's massive arsenal.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Principal resigns after student grades changed

TX SAN MARCOS — A high school principal in San Marcos has resigned after admitting that she changed up to 100 grades over two years.

Superintendent Michael Cardona said Friday that Kelli Lopez resigned earlier in the week as principal of San Marcos High. He said grades submitted at the end of the school year were changed starting in 2014, the same year Lopez became principal of the school.

Cardona didn't explain why the grades were altered, but said Lopez admitted to it when administrators confronted her after receiving a tip.

The school district has reported the matter to the Texas Education Agency. Cardona said students were not aware their grades were altered.

Stolen bugle returned to American Legion post

MT BOZEMAN — A bugle used by the American Legion's honor guard that was stolen during a break-in has been returned.

Bozeman American Legion post commander Jim Howe said an unidentified man went to the American Legion bar and gave the bugle to a bartender.

The bugle was stolen during a burglary at the post in September. Post officials said they wanted it back, no questions asked. According to the Bozeman Daily Chronicle, the bugle has been used to play taps at about 80 military burials per year since 2009.

Ex-cop gets prison for explicit texts to teens

NJ GLEN ROCK — A former police officer who

sent sexually explicit texts and nude photos to two teenage girls he was investigating and pawned guns that were surrendered to authorities has been sentenced to three years in prison.

Eric Reamy, 52, also must register as a sex offender and will be barred from holding public employment under the sentence imposed Friday.

The Fair Lawn man pleaded guilty in March to child endangerment and failure to make the required disposition of a property. He spent 27 years on the Glen Rock force, serving as its juvenile officer and leading the detective bureau.

Reamy admitted sending the teens suggestive texts and naked photos. He also sold seven guns that had been turned over to the department for safe keeping or to be destroyed.

College suspends 2 over blackface video

PA READING — An eastern Pennsylvania college says it has suspended two students over an online video showing a student in blackface lampooning the "Black Lives Matter" movement.

President Lex McMillan III said in a post on Albright College's Facebook page that the two students most directly involved have been suspended "pending further investigation and adjudication." He said they had been "advised to leave campus immediately and remain available for communication with college officials."

McMillan said officials had learned that "multiple students of multiple races" had been involved in the video, which he called a "hurtful, offensive act." He said earlier that the students who posted the Snapchat video had come forward voluntarily and had "expressed deep remorse."

McMillan said officials

would determine "the most appropriate sanctions."

Invasive stink bug spreads within state

IL CHAMPAIGN — University of Illinois researchers say an invasive variety of stink bug is spreading in the state.

Kelly Estes is cooperative agricultural pest survey coordinator at the university's Prairie Research Institute. She said in a news release Friday that brown marmorated stink bugs have been found in five new, widely scattered Illinois counties. The bugs' presence was recently confirmed in counties.

The stink bugs first were found in the state in 2010 in Cook County and in the East St. Louis area. The bugs feed on a wide variety of host plants in gardens, orchards and fields.

Estes said the bugs often winter in homes and with the onset of cooler weather may be seen on houses looking for shelter.

Baby gorilla, named JJ, enlarges family at zoo

OH COLUMBUS — The oldest gorilla on record has another great-grandchild.

The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium says a baby western lowland gorilla named JJ was born there Friday. The newborn's gender has not yet been determined as it bonds with its mother, Tabibu. Both are expected to remain behind the scenes for several months.

The baby gorilla is descended from the zoo's well-known gorilla family.

Colo, now approaching 60, is considered the oldest gorilla on record. She still lives at the Columbus zoo, where she was born. JJ's father, Macombo II, is Colo's grandson. He and his brother, Mosuba, were the first

gorilla twins born in the western hemisphere.

Police aim to solve mystery over skull

GA ROME — A Georgia man and an estate sale manager clearing out his grandfather's house in Rome came upon an unusual discovery — a human skull.

Ashley Norris said his grandfather owned a drugstore in the 1950s, and the skull was found in a cabinet with display items such as old clocks with Coca-Cola signs on them. Norris told The Rome News-Tribune that police were notified after people who saw the skull said they thought it was real.

Officers call for truce in paintball gun war

CT NEW HAVEN — Connecticut police are calling for a cease-fire in a paintball gun war before something tragic happens.

The New Haven Police Department on Friday issued a warning that many paintball guns resemble assault-style weapons and officers can't quickly determine if the guns are real when answering emergency calls.

Police last week responded to a dozen calls about shootings in which paintball and BB guns were involved. They said some of the incidents have resulted in serious injuries and other incidents have led them to engage in dangerous pursuits.

A 10-year-old girl was shot in the head by a BB gun on Thursday.

Police also are concerned that the gunbattles being conducted mostly by teenagers involved in turf or gang disputes could escalate into the use of real weapons.

From wire reports

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Watson leads No. 5 Clemson over Jackson, No. 3 Louisville

Associated Press

CLEMSON, S.C.—Clemson coach Dabo Swinney had a simple message for his defense in facing Louisville star Lamar Jackson.

“If he’s Superman,” Swinney told them, “we’re going to be the Kryptonite.”

No. 5 Clemson did just enough, rallying for two fourth-quarter touchdowns and stopping Jackson and No. 3 Louisville a yard short on fourth down with 33 seconds left to hold on for a 42-36 victory Saturday night.

The Tigers (5-0, 2-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) rallied behind Deshaun Watson’s five touchdowns, the last two coming in the final seven minutes, after Louisville (4-1, 2-1) wiped out an 18-point lead behind another standout performance by Jackson.

Watson was no slouch. He had his errors — a career-high three interceptions and a fumble — but in the end found a way to succeed with 306 yards on 20-of-31 passing.

“It just shows even with the hiccups how good we are and how good we can be,” Watson said. “We found a way how to handle adversity.”

The Tigers looked like they had this one wrapped up before halftime, scoring four TDs in the second quarter to lead 28-10 at the break. Then “Action”

Jackson got moving and the Cardinals (4-1, 2-1) scored on five consecutive possessions to take a 36-28 lead with 7:50 left.

Artavis Scott began Clemson’s comeback with a 77-yard kickoff return and Watson found Mike Williams for a 20-yard scoring pass two plays later. Clemson forced Louisville to punt for the only time in the second half and Watson guided the game-winning drive, ending on a 31-yard TD catch by Jordan Leggett.

Jackson had one last surge, leading Louisville to Clemson’s 9. But James Quick was knocked out of bounds Louisville’s final play shy of the first down.

“Lamar knew where he needed to go with the ball and we came up a yard short,” Louisville coach Bobby Petrino said.

The Tigers have won 19 straight games at home, a streak that began after they lost their last top-five showdown — when No. 5 Florida State defeated No. 3 Clemson 51-14 in 2013. In that one, Jameis Winston led a Seminoles rout.

Clemson made sure Jackson would not pull off another one.

“A lot of guys picked Louisville,” Swinney said. “Rough night for you.”

Poll implications: Louisville: The Cardinals will fall, but should stay in the top 10. There won’t be much dropoff in losing at Clemson, which is 49-6

at home since Dabo Swinney became coach.

Clemson: Count on the Tigers bouncing up into the top four — and more than a few talking heads anointing Alabama, Ohio State, Michigan and Clemson as the four presumptive College Football Playoff teams.

Heisman implications: The game figured to be a showcase — and Heisman Trophy showdown — for Louisville’s Jackson and Clemson’s Watson. While the Tigers came out on top, Jackson did not disappoint and most likely kept himself in the conversation going forward. Watson, after a slow start to the season, also elevated his candidacy with his fourth-quarter rally against the Cardinals.

“I guess so,” Watson said when asked if he’s back out front for the Heisman. “We both played good for our teams and had a chance to win. That’s out of my control.”

Defensive numbers: It didn’t always look like it, but Clemson’s defense kept Louisville off its offensive average. The Cardinals gained 568 yards, a whopping number but still below the 682 they were averaging coming in. The 36 points were also 27 fewer than what they’ve scored this season. The Tigers finished with 10 tackles for loss and five sacks of the elusive Jackson.

Air Force tops Navy

Associated Press

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — Weston Steelhammer watched the first half from the locker room. No doubt, Navy wishes he would’ve stayed put.

Suspended for a half because of a targeting penalty the week before, the Air Force senior safety provided a second-half spark for a defense that was already playing lights out.

Steelhammer led a dominating defensive effort, tailback Tim McVey scored twice, including a 62-yard TD catch, and Air Force beat Navy 28-14 on Saturday to take a big step toward claiming the Commander-in-Chief’s Trophy.

Jalen Robinette had five catches for 163 yards for Air Force (4-0), which extended its home winning streak to 15 straight. His 75-yard TD catch late in the third quarter broke open the game.

The Midshipmen (3-1) averted a shutout on a 6-yard TD run by Shawn White with 8:33 remaining. The option-oriented team finished with more yards passing (260) than rushing (57). For that matter, so did Air Force (257 yards passing, 173 on the ground).

Steelhammer sat out the first half after being disqualified for a targeting call in the third quarter last week at Utah State.

“The guys out there did a great job in the first half of keeping us in it,” Steelhammer said. “I didn’t want to be too much of a distraction coming back.”

Tennessee rallies past Georgia on Hail Mary heave

By PAUL NEWBERRY

Associated Press

ATHENS, Ga. — Tennessee works on the play every week in practice, just in case.

Throw it up and hope for the best.

It couldn’t have worked out any better: a Hail Mary that gave the Volunteers their most improbable comeback yet.

Jauan Jennings hauled in a 43-yard pass from Joshua Dobbs on the final play, leaving No. 11 Tennessee with a stunning 34-31 victory over No. 25 Georgia after the Bull-

dogs appeared to win the game on a long TD pass of their own with 10 seconds remaining Saturday.

“It was a crazy play, stuff you dream about,” Dobbs said.

In all, the teams combined for three touchdowns in the final 3 minutes.

The Vols (5-0, 2-0 Southeastern Conference) rallied from a double-digit deficit for the fourth time in five games, but none of the others were like this. Not even close.

While the Vols whooped it up with their small, orange-clad contingent in a corner

of the Sanford Stadium, Georgia straggled off the field in disbelief.

“I’ve never been part of something like that,” said Greg Pyke, a senior offensive lineman. “We won the game. Then, next thing you know, we lost the game. It’s heartbreaking.”

The Vols have gained a commanding position in the SEC East with back-to-back victories over Florida and Georgia, likely to be their two leading challengers in the division race.

US takes three-point lead in Ryder Cup

Associated Press

CHASKA, Minn. — The Americans are making all the right moves in this Ryder Cup.

Even Tiger Woods.

Europe was riding the momentum as it inched within one point Saturday at Hazeltine. U.S. captain Davis Love III heard conflicting ideas on the radio and by text message from his assistant captains, all of them weighing in with the best lineup for the final session of team matches. The question was Patrick Reed and Jordan Spieth, the only Americans who had yet to sit out.

"I finally just said to Tiger, 'Are we playing them or are we sitting them?' He said, 'No, you have to send them back out there,'" Love said.

Reed delivered another moment sure to burnish his growing Ryder Cup reputation.

He was at his bullish best in the anchor match with Jordan Spieth, taking over with great shots and chest-thumping cheers that set the tone for his team and put the Americans on the verge — again — of winning back the cup.

"He's Captain America for us," Spieth said after their 2-and-1 victory over Henrik Stenson and Justin Rose, securing a 9½-6½ lead.

The Americans need only five points from 12 singles matches to win the Ryder Cup for the first time since 2008, and only the third time in the last two decades.

Their biggest challenge now might be history.

They led 10-6 four years ago at Medinah when Europe put together a staggering display of putting and produced the largest comeback by a visiting team in Ryder Cup history. The Europeans refer to that as the "Miracle at Medinah," and they might need another one Sunday.

"We're one closer than we were at Medinah," Rose said. "It's going to be a monumental challenge tomorrow. We're going to put out our lineup and we're going to look at each other man-to-man tomorrow. It's going to be eyeball-to-eyeball on the first tee, no partners, no friends out there on the golf course. Just go out and try to put a point on the board. That's

everybody's mission."

The raucous and at times rude crowd at Hazeltine won't have to wait long to get fired up.

Leading off the singles is Reed against Rory McIlroy, who along with Belgian rookie Thomas Pieters has done his part to keep Europe close. McIlroy and Pieters were undefeated as a tandem, combining to go 11-under par in 17 holes of a 3-and-1 victory over Dustin Johnson and Brooks Koepka, the lone European point in fourballs.

"It's a tough environment for us to come and play in. We expect that," McIlroy said. "It's same for the U.S. guys when they come to play in Europe. You have to keep your concentration out there. It's been a long day and sometimes emotions run high. ... The more they shouted, the better we played.

"I hope they shout at us all day tomorrow."

Most painful for European captain Darren Clarke was watching his best friend and captain's pick, Lee Westwood, miss crucial short putts on the back nine to cost Europe a

valuable point.

Westwood and Masters champion Danny Willett never trailed until they both made bogey on the par-3 17th. Westwood missed a 5-foot par putt to stay all square, and then with a chance to at least earn a halve, he badly missed a 2-foot birdie on the final hole to give J.B. Holmes and Ryan Moore a 1-up victory.

Phil Mickelson, in his 11th straight Ryder Cup, showed he can deliver on the golf course as well as he can run a task force meeting. Lefty produced timely wedges and key putts down the stretch as he and Matt Kuchar combined for nine birdies in a 2-and-1 victory over Sergio Garcia and Martin Kaymer.

The final hour turned solid red on the scoreboard, right when it looked like a putt or two in Europe's favor could have made it a one-point deficit instead of three.

Now, Europe needs another big comeback.

"It's been done before from a worse position," Clarke said. "We have a big task ahead of us but the guys are capable of doing it."

Jags hold off Colts in London for first win

Associated Press

LONDON — Blake Bortles threw for two touchdowns and ran for another as Jacksonville held off a furious Indianapolis Colts' rally to win 30-27 in London for the Jaguars' first win of the season.

Sunday's victory at a raucous Wembley Stadium elevated Jacksonville into a tie with Indianapolis at 1-3 in the AFC South.

Andrew Luck led the Colts on three fourth-quarter touchdown drives to rattle the Jaguars' nerves. But his fourth-and-1 pass at the Jacksonville 49 with 1:36 remaining fell from the hands of tight end Dwayne Allen to preserve the victory for under-fire Jaguars coach Gus Bradley.

The Jaguars got a semblance of a running game going for the first time this season. T.J. Yeldon carried 13 times for 68 yards and Bortles added seven scrambles for 36 yards, including a 1-yard run that put Jacksonville ahead 14-6 midway through the second quarter.

The Colts repeatedly self-destructed on offense with dropped balls and another costly Luck interception that led to Jacksonville's opening touchdown. The Colts proved just as reckless on defense as pass interference and unnecessary roughness penalties extended three Jacksonville scoring drives.

The Jaguars led 23-6 after three quarters before the Colts mounted a tenacious comeback.

Their first touchdown drive of the final period was aided by an end zone pass interference on safety Jonathan Cyprien. Frank Gore (16 carries for 68 yards) punched the ball through on the next play to complete a nine-play, 75-yard drive barely seconds into the final period.

After a Jacksonville punt, Luck led a 12-play, 78-yard touchdown drive capped by his rollout scoring toss to T.Y. Hilton alone in the right corner of the end zone.

But Bortles found Allen Hurns on a short out route. Hurns made reserve cornerback

Rashaan Melvin miss, then cut inside and through the defense for a 42-yard touchdown that seemingly put the Jaguars safely ahead 30-20 with 5:31 left.

But Luck pulled the Colts back to 30-27 barely two minutes later. A defensive miscue by Jaguars rookie Jalen Ramsey left Phillip Dorsett streaking alone to haul in a 64-yard touchdown throw.

A much less exciting first half gave little indication of the drama to come. Two long Adam Vinatieri field goals accounted for all the Colts' first-half points.

Frank Gore added to his somewhat strange status as the NFL's greatest rusher outside the U.S. Sunday marked his fourth time in regular-season action on foreign soil dating to his rookie year of 2005 in Mexico City. Gore also had strong 2010 and 2013 performances as a 49er in London's Wembley. Adding Sunday's productive numbers leaves Gore with 66 non-American carries for 264 yards and four touchdowns.

Mets top Phillies, clinch NL wild card

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — After all the disheartening injuries and trying skids this summer, the New York Mets are right back in the playoffs.

With their ace on the mound at Citi Field.

New York clinched a postseason spot Saturday, beating the Phillies 5-3 to secure the top National League wild card and set off a bubbly celebration that spilled from the visitors' clubhouse onto the field in Philadelphia.

The defending NL champions will host San Francisco or St. Louis on Wednesday night, with the winner advancing to face the Chicago Cubs.

"We never gave up," said third baseman Jose Reyes, back in the playoffs for the first time in 10 years. "We never doubted the talent we had in here."

The only other time the Mets made the postseason in consecutive years was 1999-2000. New York won the NL East last season and went all the way to the World Series before losing to Kansas City.

This season has presented all sorts of new challenges. The banged-up Mets (87-74) overcame a bevy of injuries that de-

pleted their lineup and decimated a terrific young rotation — with Matt Harvey, Jacob deGrom and Steven Matz all sidelined by season-ending ailments.

Two games under .500 on Aug. 19, the Mets have gone a major league-best 27-12 during the last six weeks to vault over four teams in the NL wild-card race.

"This year was much tougher," winning pitcher Bartolo Colon said through a translator. "We had a lot of people injured and it was hard to get here to play just this one game we're going to play."

James Loney hit a two-run homer to back the 43-year-old Colon (15-8), and Jeurys Familia closed for his major league-high 51st save. T.J. Rivera, Jose Reyes and Asdrubal Cabrera each had an RBI single.

By clinching with one day to spare in the regular season, manager Terry Collins and the Mets can save All-Star Noah Syndergaard for the wild-card game.

"When you're in, you're capable of anything," Collins said after getting doused by his players with beer and champagne. "Anything can happen. We've got our ace going on Wednesday. If he can spin one up and you get a couple breaks, you never know."

When left fielder Michael Conforto made

a sliding catch of Aaron Altherr's soft liner for the final out, the excited Mets streamed out of their dugout and gathered near the mound, bouncing in unison.

Back in the clubhouse, they wore goggles while spraying beer and champagne, then went onto the Citizens Bank Park field to celebrate with thousands of Mets fans behind the visitors' dugout. Several players sprayed champagne and sparkling cider into the crowd while a few others lit victory cigars.

"We have a great fan base," Loney said. "You can see their excitement and their passion, and we play off that."

Collins thinks playing at home Wednesday could be a huge advantage.

"Say what you want about (Mets fans)," he said. "They're energetic and enthusiastic and they want to win. There's no second place in New York City."

Ryan Howard hit a two-run homer in what was likely his penultimate game with the Phillies.

Philadelphia's defeat was its sixth straight overall and 91st of the season. It is the club's second straight season with more than 90 losses.

Jays beat BoSox, move into tie atop AL wild card

Associated Press

BOSTON — Ezequiel Carrera hit a ninth-inning sacrifice fly to give Toronto the lead after Boston tied it in the eighth on a balk and the Blue Jays won 4-3.

The Blue Jays moved into a tie with Baltimore for the top spot in the AL wild-card race. The Blue Jays and Orioles each have 88 wins with one game to play, and Toronto owns the tie-breaker.

With the loss, Boston fell one-half game behind Cleveland in the race for home-field advantage when their ALDS series begins on Thursday.

With Red Sox closer Craig Kimbrel (2-6) pitching, Michael Saunders drew a leadoff walk, and then pinch-runner Dalton Pompey took second on a sacrifice bunt, third on a wild pitch and scored on Carrera's fly to left.

Yankees 7, Orioles 3: Tyler

Austin tied the score with a seventh-inning home run, Austin Romine and Brett Gardner drove in two runs each in the eighth and host New York rallied from a three-run deficit to stall Baltimore's playoff push.

Giants 3, Dodgers 0: Giants rookie Ty Blach outpitched ace Clayton Kershaw, and host San Francisco held its lead for the last NL playoff spot going into the final day of the regular season.

The Giants stayed one game ahead of St. Louis for the second wild card.

Cardinals 4, Pirates 3: Jedd Gyorko hit a go-ahead home run in the eighth inning, Matt Holliday provided another big boost and host St. Louis pushed the playoff race to the final day.

Braves 5, Tigers 3: Freddie Freeman and Nick Markakis homered, rookie Aaron Blair had a career-high 10 strikeouts

and last-place Atlanta damaged visiting Detroit's playoff hopes.

Nationals 2, Marlins 1: Nationals rookie Trea Turner hit his 13th homer, Tanner Roark tuned up for the playoffs with 5²/₃ innings of one-run ball and host Washington beat Miami while clinching home-field advantage in the NL Division Series.

Indians 6, Royals 3: Francisco Lindor hit a two-out, two-run double during an eighth-inning rally to help visiting Cleveland beat Kansas City.

Reds 7, Cubs 4: Jon Lester failed to become a 20-game winner, struggling for the first time since mid-July as host Cincinnati pulled away to a victory over what's likely to be Chicago's lineup for the first game of the playoffs.

Rays 4, Rangers 1: Colby Lewis lost his fifth straight start in the right-hander's tune-up for the playoffs, allowing Corey Dickerson's three-run

homer in visiting Tampa Bay's victory.

Twins 6, White Sox 0: Byron Buxton and Jorge Polanco each hit a two-run home run to send host Chicago's James Shields to a major league high-tying 19th loss.

Astros 3, Angels 0: Collin McHugh pitched three-hit ball over 7²/₃ innings to help Houston beat host Los Angeles.

Brewers 4, Rockies 3 (10): Chris Carter hit a tiebreaking home run with two outs in the 10th inning, leading visiting Milwaukee over Colorado.

Diamondbacks 9, Padres 5: Yasmany Tomas hit a three-run homer as part of host Arizona's five-run first inning in a win.

Athletics 9, Mariners 8 (10): Joey Wendle hit a tiebreaking RBI double off Edwin Diaz in the top of the 10th inning, and visiting Oakland ended Seattle's playoff hopes.