

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Fires cause 'pure devastation' in California neighborhoods

Associated Press

SANTA ROSA, Calif. — Jose Garnica worked for more than two decades to build his dream home only to see it reduced to ashes in a matter of minutes by the deadly firestorm that is blackening California wine country.

Garnica, who moved to the U.S. from Mexico more than 20 years ago, had finally decided he could afford to upgrade parts of his Santa Rosa house after building a stable career with the local garbage company and saving nearly everything he and his wife earned.

Over the past two years, he replaced the siding and installed a new air conditioner, stainless steel appliances and new flooring. Less than a week ago, the 44-year-old got an estimate to replace the fence, one of the last items on his list.

But several hours before dawn Monday, he watched his house become one of at least 3,500 homes and businesses destroyed by the series of blazes across the region that had killed at least 17 people.

"You feel helpless," he said Tuesday. "There's nothing you can do. Everything, your whole life, goes through your mind in a minute. Everything you had done. I left all my family behind in Mexico to get a better life. Finally we were just coming to the comfort level, and this happens."

Flames have raced across Napa and Sonoma counties and the coastal beauty of Mendocino further north, leaving little more than smoldering ashes and eye-stinging smoke in their wake. Whole neighborhoods are gone, with only brick chimneys and charred laundry machines to mark sites that were once family homes.

On Wednesday, authorities ordered more evacuations for parts of Sonoma Valley after a blaze there grew to 44 square miles. Officials also cautioned that after a day of cooler weather and calmer winds, dangerous gusts will return to the region Wednesday.

"This is just pure devastation, and it's going to take us a while to get out

and comb through all of this," said Ken Pimlott, chief of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

He said the state had "several days of fire weather conditions to come."

In some torched neighborhoods, fire hydrants still had hoses attached, apparently abandoned by firefighters who had to flee.

The wildfires already rank among the deadliest in California history, and officials expected the death toll to increase as the scope of destruction becomes clear. At least 185 people were injured during the blazes that cropped up Sunday night. Nearly 200 people were reported missing in Sonoma County alone.

David Leal, 55, and his wife and stepson salvaged a few decorative items from their Santa Rosa home, including a wind chime, tiles from the backsplash in the kitchen, a decorative sun and a cross.

"Our plan is to keep those things, and when we rebuild, they'll be mementos of what we've lived through, and of, just, resilience," Leal said. "It's hard not to get emotional."

In the meantime, Leal got a post office box so the family can get mail, a new laptop and some clothes. They're living out of their two vehicles.

"We'll be back home again sooner than later, and with our chins held high," he said, choking back tears. "And, hopefully, we'll be amongst our neighbors and friends as they do the same."

Leal, a Navy veteran, evacuated with his family, two dogs and a cat to nearby Petaluma late Sunday after seeing fierce, hot winds and flames whipping in the distance.

"We didn't have time to think about what to grab. We grabbed what we saw," he said. He got his external hard drive, which was lying out, but left his laptop.

Garnica also hung onto hope, saying he was not back at square one.

"I came into the States with nothing. I didn't have anything," Garnica said. "I think I'm better off than how I came in. At least I got a job. I got a family. I'm healthy."

## 2 McCain officers fired after deadly collision of ships

By TYLER HLAVAC

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The Navy has relieved two USS John S. McCain senior officers in connection with a "preventable" deadly collision involving the destroyer and a civilian merchant vessel near Singapore.

Seventh Fleet Commander Vice Adm. Phil Sawyer relieved the McCain's commanding officer, Cmdr. Alfredo Sanchez, and executive officer, Cmdr. Jessie Sanchez, due to a loss of confidence in their ability to lead, said a Navy statement issued Wednesday.

The statement — which called the Aug. 21 collision with an oil tanker that killed 10 McCain crew members "preventable" — said Alfredo Sanchez displayed "poor judgement" while Jessie Sanchez "exercised poor leadership of the ship's training program."

Alfredo Sanchez assumed duties as the McCain's executive officer in April 2015 and became the ship's commander in September 2016. He has been reassigned to Naval Forces Japan, while Jessie Sanchez will go to work for Yokosuka's Ship Repair Facility, the statement said.

A former USS McCampbell commander, Cmdr. Ed Angelinas, has been tapped to serve as the McCain's acting commander, the Navy said. USS Antietam Chief Engineer Lt. Cmdr. Ray Ball will become acting executive officer.

The Navy's Pacific leadership has been shaken up since a string of accidents in the region resulted in several leaders being removed from their positions.

In January, the Antietam ran aground and spilled roughly 1,100 gallons of hydraulic fluid into Tokyo Bay. In May, the USS Lake Champlain collided with a South Korean fishing boat while operating off the east coast of the divided peninsula. In June, a collision between the USS Fitzgerald and a Philippine-flagged merchant ship killed seven sailors.

The commanding officers of the Antietam and Fitzgerald were relieved of their duties. The commanders of 7th Fleet, Task Force 70 and Destroyer Squadron 15 were also relieved after the collisions.

Last month, Pacific Fleet Commander Adm. Scott Swift announced he would retire after learning he would not be tapped to lead U.S. Pacific Command.

# US, Korean jets fly nighttime training

BY KIM GAMEL

*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — Two supersonic U.S. bombers flew over the Korean Peninsula in their first nighttime training mission with South Korean forces, a clear warning to North Korea as tensions spike over its nuclear weapons program.

The show of force happened Tuesday as President Donald Trump met with his national security team to discuss options for dealing with the growing threat from the North.

The B-1B Lancers, which flew from Andersen Air Force Base in Guam, were joined by South Korean fighter jets after entering the Korean Air Defense Identification Zone about 8:50 p.m. Tuesday, the South Korean military said.

The warplanes conducted

bombing simulations in the seas off both sides of the peninsula and flew across the territory in a nearly three-hour mission, according to the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The Pacific Air Force said the bombers, assigned to the 37th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron, also trained with Japanese fighter jets on Tuesday, "making this the first time" the Lancers have conducted combined training with the allied nations at night.

Visits by U.S. warships and bombers along with regular joint exercises with the South infuriate North Korea, which considers them a sign of aggression and a rehearsal for an invasion.

North Korea watchers have been on alert for a possible provocation by the communist state in the days surrounding

a key holiday Tuesday to mark the founding anniversary of its ruling party.

Fears that the crisis could spiral into open conflict have risen as the communist state demonstrated rapid progress in its efforts to develop a nuclear-tipped missile that could target the U.S. mainland despite several rounds of punishing U.N. and other international sanctions against it.

The North has test-fired dozens of missiles, including two ICBMs in July. Most recently it launched a missile that flew over Japan and achieved the longest distance yet.

In addition to the missile tests, it has conducted six nuclear tests since 2006, including the most powerful one on Sept. 3.

The Air Force said Tuesday's overflight demonstrated how U.S. military forces "are always

ready to defend the American homeland and how the U.S. stands resolutely with Japan and [South Korea] to honor their unshakable alliance commitments to safeguard security and stability."

Separately, the Navy said a U.S. submarine that is capable of firing Tomahawk cruise missiles and torpedoes made a port call Saturday at the U.S. base in the South Korean city of Chinhae.

The 360-foot long USS Tucson, which is homeported at Pearl Harbor, arrived as part of its deployment to the region, a Navy statement said. It also stressed that the crew of about 150 "operates with a high state of readiness and is always prepared to tackle any mission that comes their way."

## Army accepting more marginal recruits

*USA Today*

WASHINGTON — Faced with increasing demand for new soldiers, the Army has reached deeper into the pool of marginally qualified recruits, offered hundreds of millions in bonuses and relaxed the process for granting waivers for marijuana use.

The Army will reach its goal of 80,000 new soldiers without compromising quality, predicted Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Snow, who leads its recruiting command. The need for new soldiers comes as Congress has reversed trends begun in the Obama administration to downsize the military. An additional headwind for recruiting in all the service branches: a growing economy where civilian jobs, not joining the military, attract young people.

"It's in an environment where unemployment is 4.5 percent," Snow said. "We've got our work cut out for us."

So long as the Army, the larg-

est of the armed services, continues to tinker at the margins by accepting a small number of recruits with lower qualifications, the Army won't encounter the problems it did in the mid-2000s, said Beth Asch, an expert on military recruiting at the nonprofit Rand Corp.

In 2005, as long, hazardous deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan became common, the Pentagon relaxed standards for recruits who had fared poorly on standard military exams. Those who scored in the lower third of the tests, so called Category Four recruits, had been limited to 2 percent of new troops. The standard was relaxed to 4 percent and was exceeded at times.

Smarter soldiers, Rand has found historically, are better fighters. One study showed that tank crewmembers were less effective in destroying the enemy than recruits who had scored higher on military tests.

## New field manual focuses on foes' modern arsenals

BY COREY DICKSTEIN

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Army has reshaped its primary operating concept to focus on large-scale combat against enemies with technology and capabilities similar to American forces after 16 years of fighting insurgent groups in the Middle East and southwest Asia.

The Army on Tuesday rolled out its updated field manual during the Association of the U.S. Army's annual meeting in Washington. Titled FM 3-0 Operations, the field manual emphasizes the service's need to adapt to potential battlefields where enemies have modern tanks, artillery, air forces, drones and cyber capabilities.

Gen. Mark Milley, the Army's chief of staff, said Tuesday that adversaries including Russia, China, Iran and North Korea have spent nearly two decades studying the U.S. military's strengths and vulnerabilities as it has fought terrorist groups.

Those nations have invested in modernizing their forces and preparing them to exploit vulnerabilities developed while the United States focused on fighting insurgents.

It marks the first major overhaul since 2011 of the field manual, which defines the Army's fighting priorities for soldiers, said Army Lt. Gen. Michael D. Lundy, commander of the Combined Arms Center at Fort Leavenworth in Kansas.

The shift in focus was necessitated primarily by adversaries such as Russia, which has used advanced military techniques against Ukrainian forces since intervening in the civil war there in 2014. The new fighting manual places increased emphasis on large-scale combat that would include multiple Army divisions of some 20,000 soldiers, which means refocusing the Army to deploy full divisions and even corps as opposed to the brigade combat teams that it has deployed independently during recent wars, Lundy said.



# Fire forces Marine helo down

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE  
AND KEN KUNIYOSHI  
*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — An in-flight fire forced a Marine Corps helicopter to make an emergency landing in a field outside Okinawa's Northern Training Area on Wednesday, Marine officials said.

The incident involving a CH-53E Super Stallion from the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing occurred about 5:20 p.m. in the Takae district of Higashi Village during routine training, local and Marine Corps officials said. Japanese officials first reported it as a "crash."

There were no injuries to the crew or civilians in the area, said a Marine Corps statement issued late Wednesday. The cause of the fire and the extent of the damage to the aircraft are unknown.

"The cause of this incident is under investigation and there is limited information at this time," the Marine statement said. "We are currently working with local and military police to secure the site for follow on investigation and everyone's safety. Additional details will be released when information is

available."

Local officials from the Kuni-gami District Civil Service Union Fire Department said they were alerted to the incident at a rural farm about 5:30 p.m., a spokesman said. They began to work toward extinguishing the blaze at 6:12 p.m. Firefighting was handed over to the U.S. military about 8:10 p.m., and the fire was "suppressed" about 8:17 p.m.

Such incidents are known to enflame tensions with locals who remain wary of U.S. military flight operations on and around the tiny island prefecture. Immediately after World War II, crashes were fairly common and claimed the lives of local civilians. Along with crimes perpetrated by American servicemembers in recent years, the incidents have led to a small but potent protest movement backed by popular support.

The protesters and anti-base Gov. Takeshi Onaga have vowed to expel the MV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft from the island.

An Osprey crash last December in shallow water just off Camp Schwab showed just how sensitive locals are to U.S. military flight operations. The

crash, which happened during a nighttime refueling at sea, inflamed protests and renewed calls for Ospreys to be expelled from the island.

A deadly Osprey crash in August off the coast of Australia only added fuel to the fire; however, the helicopter-plane hybrid was deemed safe and continued to fly.

Speaking to reporters in Naha on Wednesday evening, Onaga condemned Wednesday's incident and called for a suspension of Super Stallion flights pending an investigation.

"I am outraged that a similar incident has occurred once again in this prefecture less than a year after the [Osprey] crash in Nago City," he said. "I strongly protest and at the same time [request a] thorough investigation to the cause of the incident and that it is promptly announced."

Japanese Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera told reporters that Lt. Gen. Lawrence Nicholson, III Marine Expeditionary Force commander, has been asked to "identify the cause of the incident and take preventative measures and provide sufficient information regarding the case."

## US colonel rules out a negotiated Raqqa pullout

*Associated Press*

BEIRUT — The U.S.-led coalition battling Islamic State said Wednesday that it won't accept a negotiated withdrawal for hundreds of ISIS militants holed up in the Syrian city of Raqqa, once the extremists' de facto capital.

The remarks by coalition spokesman Col. Ryan Dillon came as coalition allies were working out ways to safely evacuate an estimated 4,000 civilians who remain trapped in the city.

The coalition has said ISIS militants are holding some civilians as human shields, preventing them from escaping as the fight enters its final stages for the last remaining slice of Raqqa in militant hands.

The United Nations estimates 8,000 people are trapped in Raqqa, and has called on all parties to the conflict to take all measures to protect civilians.

Dillon said the Raqqa Civil Council, a local administration of Arab and Kurdish officials, was leading the discussions to ensure safe evacuation of civilians as the fight for Raqqa enters its final stages.

However, it was not clear with whom the council is speaking inside Raqqa. A Kurdish-led force, the Syrian Democratic Forces, is leading the U.S.-backed battles on the ground.

A negotiated withdrawal "is absolutely something that we as a coalition would not be a part of or agree with," Dillon said.

Between 300 and 400 militants are believed holed up in about 1.5 square miles of Raqqa, including in the city's stadium and a hospital, he said.

The stadium is believed to be used by the militants as a weapons warehouse and a prison while the hospital is one of their major headquarters.

## Marines sentenced for rally actions

*Times-News, Burlington, N.C.*

GRAHAM, N.C. — Two U.S. Marines pleaded guilty to trespassing during the Confederate Memorial Day rally May 20 at the Old Courthouse.

Joseph W. Manning, 32, of Jacksonville, Fla., pleaded guilty to first-degree trespassing, and Michael Joseph Chesny, 35, of Havelock, N.C., accepted a so-called Alford plea, in which he acknowledged the evidence against him without admitting to a crime.

Judge Katie Overby sentenced the men to time served — eight hours in jail before being released on bond — as well as court and legal fees.

They were arrested May 20 during a Confederate rally in

Graham's Court Square. Police say they climbed on top of a building next to the historic courthouse, before Alamance County Taking Back Alamance County's Confederate Memorial Day rally, without permission of the owner. They then let down a banner that read, "He who controls the past controls the future," a quote from George Orwell's novel "1984," and that also featured an "Identitarian" symbol and the letters "YWNRU" on the side.

The acronym stands for "You will not replace us," the slogan chanted by demonstrators carrying torches in Charlottesville, Va., at protests of the removal of a Confederate monument in May, and at the

"Unite the Right" protest Aug. 11-12. According to a protest leader, the slogan is an affirmation of being white.

Manning is a staff sergeant stationed at the Marine Corps Combat Engineer School at Camp Lejeune and an instructor in the program. He was "being processed for administrative separation from the Marine Corps, based on allegations brought against him as a result of his arrest May 20, 2017," according to Capt. Joshua Pena, public information officer with the Training and Education Command. Chesny is under a different command. His lawyer told Overby that Chesny has been promoted to staff sergeant since his arrest.



# Hotel questions revised timeline of Vegas shooting

Associated Press

A day after authorities revised the timeline of events on the night of the Las Vegas mass shooting, the hotel where the gunman was staying is casting doubt on the changes.

Police said earlier this week that they believe Stephen Paddock shot a hotel security guard through the door of his high-rise hotel suite six minutes before he unleashed a barrage of bullets into a crowd at a musical performance below. The injured guard ran down a hall using his radio and possibly a hallway phone to call for help, reporting he had been shot in the leg.

That account differs dramatically from the one police gave last week: that Paddock

ended his hail of fire on the crowd, where 58 people were killed and hundreds injured, in order to shoot through his door and wound the unarmed guard, Jesus Campos.

But late Tuesday, the company that owns the Mandalay Bay hotel casino questioned the new timeline.

"We cannot be certain about the most recent timeline," said Debra DeShong, a spokeswoman for MGM Resorts International. "We believe what is currently being expressed may not be accurate."

Las Vegas police did not respond Tuesday night to questions about the hotel's statement or whether investigators stand behind the revised timeline released earlier in the week.

The revised timeline raises questions about whether better communication could have allowed officers to respond more quickly and take out the gunman before the attack. It remains unclear if police ever received a call for help from the injured guard.

Undersheriff Kevin McMahill defended the hotel and said the encounter that night between Paddock and the security guard and maintenance man disrupted the gunman's plans.

"I can tell you I'm confident that he was not able to fully execute his heinous plan and it certainly had everything to do with being disrupted," McMahill said. "I don't think the hotel dropped the ball."

## Firm behind Trump and Russia file subpoenaed

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A political research firm behind a dossier of allegations about President Donald Trump's connections to Russia has been subpoenaed by the House intelligence committee.

Joshua Levy, a lawyer for Fusion GPS, said in a statement Tuesday that the subpoenas were signed by Rep. Devin Nunes even though the Republican committee chairman stepped aside months ago from leading the panel's Russia probe.

He said the subpoenas to the firm reflected a "blatant attempt to undermine the reporting" of the dossier and came even as the firm was in the process of cooperating with congressional committees in their investigations into Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential election.

The co-founder of Fusion GPS, Glenn Simpson, spoke privately over the summer for about 10 hours to the Senate Judiciary Committee. The intelligence committee, Levy said, was given the "opportunity to agree to the same terms that other committees have allowed in a good faith effort to strike a balance between Congress' right to information with our clients' privileges and legal obligations."

The dossier contends that Russia amassed compromising information about Trump and engaged in an effort to influence the outcome of the 2016 presidential election on his behalf. Special counsel Robert Mueller's investigators — who are probing whether the Trump campaign coordinated with Russia to sway the election — have spoken with a former British spy who helped compile it, The Associated Press reported last week.

According to a person familiar with the subpoenas, they were originally requested by Texas Rep. Mike Conaway, the Republican who has led the Russia probe since Nunes stepped aside in April. The person declined to be named because committee negotiations are private.

## Accounts from Paltrow, Jolie may have sealed the fate of Weinstein

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — They waited years to speak, but two of Hollywood's most powerful women might have helped seal the fate of Harvey Weinstein.

Both Gwyneth Paltrow and Angelina Jolie added their first-person accounts of uncomfortable experiences with Weinstein to the growing list of accusations against the movie mogul from women alleging decades of systematic sexual harassment and assault. The accusers have come from everywhere — actresses you've heard of, actresses you haven't, models, assistants, employees, a reporter and young women who found themselves in the orbit of the powerful executive.

But, as the story often goes, no one expected it to go this high.

Speaking to The New York Times, in the paper's second round of Weinstein exposes, Pal-

trow describes a familiar-sounding scene of her at age 22 being asked to meet Weinstein, who had just cast her as the title character in the adaptation of Jane Austen's "Emma." She was summoned to Weinstein's hotel room, where he proceeded to touch her and suggest a massage in the bedroom.

Jolie also remembered Weinstein making advances in a hotel room early in her career. She never worked with him again.

The damning accounts came just hours after The New Yorker published its own explosive investigation into Weinstein's conduct that included three accusations of rape — one from Italian actress and director Asia Argento. There were accounts of harassment from Mira Sorvino and Rosanna Arquette and others, too. The New Yorker also reported that 16 former and current executives and assistants at The Weinstein Co. and Miramax either witnessed or knew of

Weinstein's unwanted sexual advances: "All sixteen said the behavior was widely known within both Miramax and the Weinstein Company."

Even Weinstein's wife of 10 years, Marchesa designer Georgina Chapman, said Tuesday that she plans to divorce him. The company he helped co-found not only fired him, but its board of directors, including his brother Bob Weinstein.

For now, everyone is waiting to see where the chips will fall and who will be implicated or exposed in what The New Yorker described as a "culture of complicity" that could extend far outside the confines of Miramax and Weinstein Company employees.

Others are wondering whether accusations will come out against more powerful men in the industry, or if real changes might start to be implemented.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Man accused of faking cancer, taking donations

**MN** FARIBAULT — Prosecutors say a Faribault man lied about having terminal cancer, collected thousands of dollars in donations and spent the money on video games and marijuana.

Jeremiah Jon Smith, 37, is charged in Rice County with theft by swindle. Investigators say fundraisers and a GoFundMe web page for Smith generated \$23,000 to help cover his medical expenses.

Court records show Smith's wife became suspicious when she couldn't find medical records to back up her husband's claims. County Attorney John Fossum said that when Smith was questioned by police, he told them he would produce the records, but never did. WCCO-TV reported that's when investigators got a search warrant and found out Smith did not have cancer.

## Turtle that swallowed fishing line released

**SC** CHARLESTON — A sea turtle that underwent surgery to remove more than 4 feet of fishing line she had swallowed has been released in the Atlantic Ocean off South Carolina's coast.

The South Carolina Aquarium said in a news release Monday that Peach, a 55-pound female Kemp's ridley turtle, was returned to the ocean at Folly Beach on Monday after recovering from the surgery. Peach was found last summer in Charleston Harbor.

She's been tagged with a satellite transmitter that will allow scientists to study how Kemp's ridley turtles move during the winter months.

## Elks gore 2 at park in just over 2 weeks

**MO** VALLEY PARK, — Charging elks have gored two people in a suburban St. Louis park after they ignored warnings to not approach the animals.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported that one woman was hurt Sunday and another on Sept. 30 at Lone Elk Park in western St. Louis County, near the town of Valley Park.

Nature photographer Kent Burgess said he watched the most recent goring. He said a bull's large antlers connected with a woman's arm and she started to bleed.

St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation assistant director Tom Ott said that the other woman was gored in the lower back.

## Fire department fights brown recluse spiders

**AL** HUNTSVILLE — An Alabama fire department is fighting a different kind of battle after two firefighters were bitten by poisonous spiders.

Capt. Frank McKenzie, of Huntsville Fire and Rescue, told WHNT-TV that two firefighters working at the department's Station 17 have been bitten by brown recluse spiders.

He said the agency moved fire crews, equipment and personal items to another station, and the station was sprayed for pests.

## Belligerent man thrown off subway by crowd

**NY** NEW YORK — A group of New York City subway passengers who grew irritated with a belliger-

ent man shouting racial epithets at them has been captured on video eventually throwing him off the train.

The unidentified man can be seen in the video posted to Facebook openly drinking alcohol on the train while repeatedly shouting slurs and arguing the First Amendment lets him say whatever he wants.

The video then shows a group of passengers surrounding him and shoving him out of the train when the doors opened.

## Famous reindeer dies at 15 in owner's arms

**AK** ANCHORAGE — A famous reindeer that could be seen walking the streets of downtown Anchorage has died at age 15.

KTVA-TV reported that Star the reindeer died on Saturday.

A note posted on her pen by owner Albert Whitehead said Star died in his arms. Whitehead took Star on a short walk and she collapsed after returning home.

## Police: Man stole over \$200K worth of comics

**NJ** SPARTA — Police allege a handyman stole more than \$200,000 worth of comic books and artwork from a New Jersey homeowner before fleeing to Italy.

Sparta police Lt. John Lamon said Monday the theft happened earlier this year when a 64-year-old handyman from Brooklyn, N.Y., was hired to repair a New Jersey home that had sustained water damage. Sparta police allege Francesco Bove made off with \$239,000 in comic memorabilia from the unoccupied home.

Authorities say the homeowner reported the theft after a friend told him his pieces were on the market. The homeowner

has since located most of his stolen art.

## Soviet-era buoy washes up on beach after Irma

**FL** FORT LAUDERDALE — A Soviet-era buoy washed up on a Florida beach after Hurricane Irma swept through the area and officials say it likely came from Cuba.

The Sun Sentinel reported the 1,200-pound buoy that surfaced off Dania Beach includes Russian writing that translates to "Hydrometrical Service of the USSR."

Authorities say such buoys are used to measure wave height and weather variables like temperature, humidity, wind speed, wind direction or atmospheric pressure. They also may have been used as navigation aids.

## Mother rescues infant seconds before SUV hit

**PA** OKLAHOMA — State police said a mother pulled an infant from her sport utility vehicle seconds before a train struck it after an accident left two vehicles on the tracks in western Pennsylvania.

Police said a woman crossing an intersection in the borough of Oklahoma failed to yield the right of way and was hit.

Both vehicles became disabled on the Norfolk Southern tracks. Several witnesses were able to push the second SUV off.

Police in Westmoreland County said the mother "was able to free her infant child from the rear of the (first) vehicle within seconds of the train impacting her vehicle."

Police said she and the infant sustained moderate injuries, as did the other driver. Multiple traffic violations are to be filed.

From wire reports

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# US out of 2018 World Cup

Associated Press

COUVA, Trinidad — Twenty-eight years after the United States ended a four-decade World Cup absence with a stunning victory at Trinidad, the Americans' chances for the 2018 tournament in Russia ended on this island nation off the coast of Venezuela in even more astonishing fashion.

Needing only a tie and confident of victory against the world's 99th-ranked team, the U.S. was eliminated from World Cup contention Tuesday night with a 2-1 loss to Trinidad and Tobago that ended a run of seven straight American appearances at soccer's showcase.

"We let down an entire nation today," said defender Omar Gonzalez, whose 17th-minute own goal started the collapse.

Gonzalez casually tried to clear Alvin Jones' cross and sent it looping from 15 yards over the outstretched right arm of Tim Howard. Jones doubled the lead in the 37th minute with a 35-yard strike.

Christian Pulisic, the Americans' rising 19-year-old star, scored in the 47th minute, giving the U.S. hope.

Clint Dempsey, at 34 trying to make it to a fourth World Cup, entered at the start of the second half and was denied by goalkeeper Adrian Fongcette's leaping save in the 69th and hit a post from 22 yards in the 77th. Bobby Wood's header in the 88th was sent wide by Fongcette.

Even a defeat could have earned a berth, but only if Panama and Honduras both lost. And if the U.S. and only one of those rivals were beaten, the Americans would have finished fourth and advanced to a playoff next month against Australia.

Panama trailed 1-0 to Costa Rica at halftime and Honduras was behind 2-1 to Mexico, but both rallied against nations that already had clinched berths. Gabriel Torres scored for Panama in the 52nd minute on a shot that did not appear to cross the goal line, and Honduras went ahead on Guillermo Ochoa's own goal in the 54th and Romell Quioto's goal in the 60th.

At that point, the 28th-ranked Americans were playoff bound, but Roman Torres scored in the 88th minute to give Panama a 2-1 win, a third-place finish with 13 points and its first World Cup berth. Honduras finished fourth on goal difference and goes to the playoff.

The Americans, who would have qualified with 13 points because of a superior goal difference, instead had 12 points and finished fifth in the hexagonal.

"It's a blemish for us," coach Bruce Arena said. "We should not be staying home for this World Cup and I take the responsibility for that."

American players were not aware of the scores of the other games until after the final whistle.

"When I looked over at the bench and everyone was sitting down," Gonzalez said, "I could just see from the looks on their faces that it wasn't good."

Back in 1989, Trinidad needed merely a tie to reach its first World Cup, but Paul Caligiuri's long-range goal in the 30th minute put the U.S. in the tournament for the first time since 1950.

That game was played before a crowd of 35,000-plus at National Stadium in the capital of Port-of-Spain. With Trinidad already eliminated, this one drew a few hundred fans at Ato Boldon Stadium, 24 miles to the south.

The U.S. entered its final qualifier with a berth uncertain for the first time since 1989. Home losses to Mexico last November and Costa Rica caused the U.S. Soccer Federation to fire Jurgen Klinsmann and bring back Arena, the U.S. coach from 1998-2006. But after a loss to Costa Rica in New Jersey last month, there was little margin for error.

"You can go around in circles a million times over again, but the reality is that it was all there for us and we have nobody to blame but ourselves," U.S. captain Michael Bradley said.

Arena, a 66-year-old member of the U.S. National Soccer Hall of Fame, agreed with his usual bluntness.

"We foolishly brought Trinidad into the game with the own goal," the coach said. "That was a big goal for Trinidad psychologically. That got them motivated."

Missing the World Cup is a devastating blow to the USSF, which has steadily built the sport in the last quarter-century with the help of sponsors and television partners. It also is a trauma for Fox, which broadcasts the next three World Cups.

"Every time you have a setback you have to look at things, re-evaluate and get better," 38-year-old goalkeeper Tim Howard said. "And as a program we have to get better. This hex proved that. There's some good teams on the up and up and we've got our work cut out for us."

Arena left his lineup unchanged from Friday's 4-0 rout of Panama in Florida, but the Americans couldn't generate the needed energy and emotion.

"Our center backs were not confident enough with the ball and really often in the first half we were playing eight against 10 because they really need to carry the ball and bring a player to the ball and then move it a little quicker," he said. "Our forwards were not able to hold the ball. They did a poor job there. We didn't get Pulisic into the game. We played poorly. The first goal was unfortunate. Those things happen. The second goal was an incredible shot. What can you say?"

Gonzalez said Jones' cross struck his left shin as he tried to prevent it from reaching Shadon Winchester.

"One of the most unlucky goals ever," Gonzalez said. "It is one that will haunt me forever. ... I never thought that I'd see this day. This is the worst day of my career."

USFF President Sunil Gulati said the result felt unreal.

"It's a huge disappointment for everybody: for players, for the staff, for coaches, for the federation," Gulati said. "It's not good enough, obviously. In some sense, 2022 starts tomorrow for us."

## Offensive challenges for Clemson

Associated Press

CLEMSON, S.C. — Defensive end Austin Bryant said the message for No. 2 Clemson is clear: Don't lose focus.

The Tigers (6-0, 4-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) wrap up their first half of the season when they head to Syracuse (3-3, 1-1) on Friday night. On the other side of that is a two-week break, during which time they'll have time to rehab injuries. Quarterback Kelly Bryant will get treatment on a left ankle sprain, which forced him to leave in the third quarter of a 28-14 win over Wake Forest last Saturday.

Austin Bryant, no relation to teammate Kelly, said none of it makes a difference to the Tigers' mindset.

"One thing we've been harping on these past couple of days is sprint into the bye week, not limp into it," Bryant said. "We want to finish the first half of the season out strong."

That will be harder to do if Kelly Bryant can't lead the offense.

The junior quarterback has seamlessly replaced two-time Heisman Trophy finalist Deshaun Watson and helped the Tigers extend the nation's longest winning streak to 11 in a row. Bryant has run for seven of Clemson's 21 rushing touchdowns and has passed for 1,259 yards.

But Bryant gingerly walked off the field with an ankle injury after Clemson took a 21-0 lead on the Demon Deacons. He wore a walking boot on his left foot after Saturday's game and was limited as the Tigers started practicing Sunday night for Syracuse.

Clemson coach Dabo Swinney said while Bryant's ankle was sore, he expected his quarterback would have a chance to play against the Orange.

If not, co-offensive coordinator Jeff Scott said backups Zerrick Cooper and Hunter Johnson have done enough work at practice since the spring to run the attack.



# Red Sox fire Farrell after ALDS defeat

Associated Press

BOSTON — John Farrell racked up a lot of wins and a World Series title with the Boston Red Sox. But past success wasn't enough to save his job after consecutive early playoff exits.

Boston fired Farrell on Wednesday after the team's second straight loss in the AL Division Series.

The Red Sox announced the move less than 48 hours after they were eliminated from the World Series hunt with a 5-4 loss to the Houston Astros. Farrell's contract had been scheduled to run through the 2018 season.

Boston won back-to-back American League East titles for the first time in franchise history this season despite losing the bat of retired slugger David Ortiz. It also did it despite starting the season with \$217 million pitcher David Price on the disabled list and watching as 2016 Cy Young Award winner Rick Porcello stumbled to an 11-17 record.

"I thought it was the appropriate time to make a change

for the betterment of the organization," president of baseball operations Dave Dombrowski said.

Farrell managed the team to its eighth World Series title in 2013, his first season in charge of the club.

Farrell went 432-378 over five seasons with Boston. He began his coaching career with the Red Sox as a pitching coach from 2007-2010. Farrell also was part of the team's 2007 World Series title. He began his major league managerial career with Toronto and went 154-170 over two seasons.

Dombrowski wouldn't go into specifics on his thought process, but said "a lot of different factors" went into the decision to make the move. He said the team plans to move swiftly on its next hire and that the next manager would "most likely not" be a member of Farrell's current coaching staff.

Dombrowski said it would be important to be comfortable in front of media and relatable to the team's current young core.

Farrell leaves with a win total that ranks sixth in club history and he is second in postseason

appearances (three) behind Terry Francona (five). He is also the only manager in club history to finish in first place in the division three times.

Dombrowski said the baseline for success in Boston is different.

"I think you can weigh success in a lot of different ways and that's very successful. ... For me, the ultimate success is winning the world championship," Dombrowski said.

Farrell said after losing to the Astros that the team didn't meet its goals but had some good young players continue to develop.

"We had a number of challenges thrown our way from individual injuries to performance," he said. "But as a team they stuck together."

The offense slumped after Ortiz retired, even though the team had baseball's third-highest payroll. Several players also had health issues, including second baseman Dustin Pedroia and pitcher Drew Pomeranz.

There also was an off-field incident June when Price confronted Hall of Fame pitcher and current television analyst

Dennis Eckersley on a team flight.

Price was upset Eckersley didn't make himself available to the players after what they felt were critical comments about the team. Farrell later said the team had "moved on" from the incident, but the way it lingered raised questions about his control of the clubhouse.

Dombrowski reiterated that the organization was past that incident and said his personal relationship with Price is "fine."

But Dombrowski conceded that being able to thrive as a manager under Boston's unrelenting spotlight is a must. He said he's talked to quality managers in the past that he respects that won't manage in Boston.

It will make his search tougher, but he believes he can find the right person.

"You have to be prepared to take it," Dombrowski said. "This is a great baseball city. ... But there's a lot of scrutiny. ... I think it's for some people and it's not for others."

## Dodgers back in dominant form after late slump

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Dodgers' 1-16 skid from late August into September seemed strange while it was happening. After spending all summer as the most resilient, resourceful team in baseball, Los Angeles suddenly stopped scoring the extra runs and earning the late-game breaks that had made it so dominant.

When the 104-win Dodgers swept past Arizona and into the NL Championship Series on Monday night, that late-season slump looked even more inexplicable.

But it's clear the Dodgers have flipped their switch back on again, and that should worry every prospective opponent.

After four days off, the Dodgers will get back to work this

weekend when they host either the Chicago Cubs or Washington on Saturday night to begin Los Angeles' fifth NLCS in 10 years.

The Dodgers earned an extended break with their one-sided series victory over the Diamondbacks, one of the few teams to give consistent trouble to Los Angeles in the regular season. The Dodgers capped the sweep with a 3-1 win in the clincher, getting timely offense from rookie Cody Bellinger and a strong start from late-season pickup Yu Darvish before the formidable bullpen and closer Kenley Jansen slammed another door.

"You look at the three games in the series, and they're all team wins," said manager Dave Roberts, whose club outscored

Arizona 20-11. "From the first pitch, there was a plan in place, and we executed. We were relentless every single pitch."

The last four times the Dodgers played for the NL pennant in the past decade, they came up short of their first World Series since 1988. The Cubs and the Nationals both pose enormous challenges, but the Dodgers earned their fifth straight NL West title, racked up the best record in baseball and then swept past the Diamondbacks entirely to get back in position for their best shot yet at the Fall Classic.

"It's just about doing your part," Jansen said. "We were here last year, and you saw how close we got. It hurts. We've got to admit it. We know how good we are, and we know we fell short. We've been talking

about this the whole year, since January when Justin (Turner) and I re-signed. From spring training, we've been talking about winning a championship. That's everybody's mindset here. We know how hard it is, and we aren't taking anything for granted. We're going to keep grinding."

Indeed, these Dodgers are a dominant team that doesn't always dominate in the traditional sense of the term.

While leading the majors in victories for the first time since 1974, they won 25 one-run games and 20 more by two runs. Los Angeles particularly excelled in close games while going on an 82-25 run from late April to late August — matching the 1998 Yankees for the best four-month performance in the past 100 years.

# NFL owners weigh anthem rule change

Associated Press

NFL owners will meet next week to consider changes to a game manual that says players “should” stand during the national anthem, a guideline the league has left to the discretion of players who kneeled in large numbers after criticism from President Donald Trump.

Commissioner Roger Goodell told club executives Tuesday in a memo obtained by The Associated Press that the anthem issue is dividing the league from its fans. He said the NFL needs “to move past this controversy.”

NFL spokesman Joe Lockhart said the guidance will be “front and center on the agenda” when owners meet in New York next Tuesday and Wednesday.

The movement started by former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick last season over his view of police mistreatment of black males had mostly subsided when Trump told a rally in Alabama last month that owners should get rid of players who kneel during the anthem.

In his memo, Goodell reiterated the league’s belief that everyone should stand for the anthem and outlined plans to highlight efforts of players trying to bring attention to the social issues behind the game-day protests. Goodell said those plans would be presented to owners next week.

“The controversy over the anthem is a barrier to having honest conversations and making real progress on the underlying issues,” Goodell wrote. “We need to move past this controversy, and we want to do that together with our players.”

Lockhart said he wasn’t sure if players would be included in discussions during the league meetings. Most teams practice on one or both of those days. Houston and Detroit are the only teams with byes next week. The NFL Players Association didn’t immediately respond to a request for comment.

The game manual says that during the anthem “players on the field and bench area should stand at attention, face the flag, hold helmets in their left hand, and refrain from talking.” It is the NFL’s only known guidance on the subject.

The manual also says anyone not on the field by the start of the anthem can be fined or suspended. Lockhart said the league so far has chosen not to discipline any players. He sidestepped a question of whether “should” would be changed to “must” next week.

“I think there will be a discussion about the entire issue including the policy, including all of the various elements that have been raised over the last four weeks,” Lockhart said. “I’m not going to predict what might happen.”

Vice President Mike Pence, a former Indiana governor, left Indianapolis’ home game against San Francisco after about a dozen 49ers players knelt during the anthem.

A few hours later, Jerry Jones of the Dallas Cowboys became the first owner to declare publicly that he would bench any players for what he saw as disrespect of the American flag. Union Executive Director DeMaurice Smith said Jones was contradicting assurances from Goodell that players could express themselves without reprisals.

Jones said on his radio show Tuesday that

he considered anthem protests a workplace issue, giving him the right to punish his players. He said he was trying to keep the Cowboys out of the debate by declaring that they would all stand.

“I don’t want our fans to sit there and have angst over those type of issues,” Jones said. “I’m not going to have a situation with the flag that there is a debate over whether we’re respecting it or not. I’m clearing that one up.”

Two weeks ago before a Monday night game in Arizona, the Cowboys kneeled arm-in-arm before the anthem — with Jones — then stood during the singing when the flag was displayed. It was three days after Trump’s comments in Alabama.

Trump tweeted his support of Jones after the owner made the threat to bench players following a loss to Green Bay. They spoke by phone after the game in Arizona.

“We would certainly support the NFL coming out and asking the players to stand, just as the president has done,” White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Tuesday. “We support the national anthem, the flag and the men and women who fought to defend it.”

Goodell wrote to league executives about “unprecedented dialogue with our players,” saying those discussions helped build the plan that owners will discuss next week.

“Everyone involved in the game needs to come together on a path forward to continue to be a force for good within our communities, protect the game, and preserve our relationship with fans throughout the country,” Goodell wrote. “The NFL is at its best when we ourselves are unified.”

## NHL roundup

# Forsberg helps Predators rally past Flyers

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The banner went up and the home team came back to win in a thrilling finish. All in all, a perfect night for the Nashville Predators and their fans.

Filip Forsberg scored his second goal with 35.6 seconds left and the Predators rallied by scoring twice in the final 1:17 to beat the Philadelphia Flyers 6-5 on Tuesday for their first victory of the season.

“This season, being down 0-

2, it was a huge game for us,” Nashville goalie Pekka Rinne said. “Good start to the game and then let it slip a little bit and then a huge comeback. I feel like we’ve done that many times. It’s a pretty hard way to play. Emotionally and everything, it was a big win for us.”

On the night they raised their Western Conference championship banner, the Predators blew a 3-0 lead as the Flyers scored five straight goals.

**Golden Knights 5, Coyotes 2:** James Neal scored twice

during a thrilling four-goal first period and host Vegas remained unbeaten three games into its inaugural season.

**Blues 3, Rangers 1:** Carter Hutton made 16 of his 32 saves in the third period to help visiting St. Louis remain unbeaten with a win over New York.

**Blackhawks 3, Canadiens 1:** Alex DeBrincat scored his first NHL goal and set up one for Artem Anisimov to help Chicago spoil Montreal’s home opener.

**Blue Jackets 2, Hurricanes**

**1 (OT):** Sonny Milano scored two goals, including the game-winner on a breakaway with 22 seconds left in overtime to give visiting Columbus a victory.

**Stars 4, Red Wings 2:** John Klingberg and Tyler Seguin scored in the first period, and host Dallas beat Detroit for its first win of the season.

**Senators 3, Canucks 2:** Mark Stone scored in the fifth round of the shootout as visiting Ottawa picked up its first win of the season.