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stripes.com

Mattis says he never had party affiliation

The Washington Post

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said he had never spoken to President Donald Trump about leaving his position and was continuing to do his job, a day after Trump derided him as “sort of a Democrat” in an interview with CBS News’ “60 Minutes” and said “it could be” that the Pentagon chief is leaving his post.

Mattis, who was speaking to reporters en route to Vietnam, said he had never registered for any political party, having joined the military when he was 18 years old and adhered to its apolitical underpinnings as Republicans and Democrats alike came and went as commander in chief.

“Where am I today? I’m a member of the president’s ad-

ministration. And you have seen President Donald Trump’s military policies, security policies, reaping significant bipartisan support,” the 68-year-old retired Marine Corps general said, according to a transcript released by the Pentagon.

“When you think 83 percent of the U.S. Congress voting the same way on an issue put forward by the Republican president, you can see that my portfolio is bipartisan by its very basis, and that is the protection of the United States,” Mattis added.

Mattis said he had not spoken to Trump about the comments on “60 Minutes” and didn’t watch the interview. “We continue in the Department of Defense to do our job,” he said. “It’s no problem.”

Questions about Mattis’ future in the administration have arisen pointedly in recent weeks, particularly after journalist Bob Woodward released a book claiming that the defense secretary had said the president had the understanding of a fifth- or sixth-grader. Mattis denied making the comments and dismissed Woodward’s reporting as fiction.

Although talk of Mattis’ departure had settled down, Nikki Haley’s resignation as the ambassador to the United Nations reignited the speculation, which Trump fueled further in his interview over the weekend.

“I think he’s sort of a Democrat, if you want to know the truth,” Trump said. “But Gen. Mattis is a good guy. We get along very well. He may leave. I

mean, at some point, everybody leaves. Everybody. People leave. That’s Washington.”

Mattis has also split with the president on key policy issues. He advocated for an extended presence in Afghanistan, pushed to keep the United States in the Iran nuclear deal and argued against the cancellation of certain military exercises with South Korea as part of nuclear talks with Pyongyang.

The defense secretary declined to detail his thoughts about Saudi Arabia’s alleged killing of Washington Post contributor Jamal Khashoggi in Turkey and said he would wait until Secretary of State Mike Pompeo’s return from Riyadh.

“I need to have the facts first,” he said.

Dunford warns against complacency in terrorism fight

BY COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The U.S. military’s top general warned Tuesday that the international community must maintain its focus on the terrorism threat even as Islamic State nears defeat on the battlefields of Syria and other security challenges arise around the world.

ISIS and al-Qaida still have the ability and the desire to conduct and inspire terrorist attacks globally, said Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

He spoke Tuesday morning to top uniformed leaders from some 80 nations as he opened the yearly Countering Violent Extremist Organizations Chiefs of Defense Conference at Joint Base Andrews outside Washington.

“Perhaps the greatest challenge facing us today is the dan-

ger of complacency,” he said. “A misreading of our progress today and a misunderstanding of the character of the threat may cause political leaders to lose focus on violent extremism while they turn to other pressing challenges.”

Dunford issued the warning as U.S. political leaders, including President Donald Trump, wrestle with the nation’s future posture in Syria, where ISIS holds only 2 percent of the territory that it once held in its so-called caliphate across Syria and Iraq.

The U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces have surrounded the remnants of ISIS in eastern Syria’s Middle Euphrates River Valley, where officials believe it retains about 2,000 fighters. Officials also believe the remaining land held by ISIS will be recaptured within several months.

Meanwhile, the Pentagon has

turned much of its focus to preparing for war against a major military power, such as Russia or China, as those nations seek to challenge the long-held U.S. dominance of international power.

Trump at times has mulled publicly about removing the roughly 2,000 American troops operating in Syria as soon as ISIS has been defeated, though Pentagon officials — including Dunford and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis — have expressed the need for those troops to remain there until the local forces they are training can hold the land and keep the terrorist group from re-establishing itself.

“I believe those of us gathered here today have a good appreciation for the consequences of prematurely relieving pressure on the enemy and allowing them the space to reconstitute,” Dunford said. “There’s many

examples over the last few years where we’ve relieved pressure and they’ve reconstituted only to grow more virulent [with] their second strain of violent extremism.”

None of those examples is more notable than ISIS. The group, once part of al-Qaida, rose to prominence as it swept across Syria and northern Iraq in 2014, defeating American-trained Iraqi security forces just more than two years after the United States withdrew from Iraq in December 2011.

However, the trend of global terrorism has dropped during the last three years, Dunford said, attributing at least some of the success to the dismantling of ISIS’ caliphate.

For example, he said, ISIS conducted 23 percent fewer terrorist attacks in 2017 than in 2016.

US strike in Somalia kills al-Shabab militants

Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG — The U.S. military Tuesday announced its deadliest airstrike against the al-Shabab extremist group in Somalia in nearly a year, killing about 60 fighters.

The U.S. Africa Command said Friday's airstrike occurred near the community of Harardere in Mudug province in the central part of the country. According to its assessment, no civilians were injured or killed, the statement said.

It was the largest U.S. airstrike since one on Nov. 21, 2017, killed about 100 al-Shabab fighters. The statement gave no further de-

tails about what was targeted in this latest strike and the U.S. Africa Command did not immediately respond to questions.

The U.S. military has carried out more than two dozen airstrikes, including drone strikes, this year against the al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab, the deadliest Islamic extremist group in sub-Saharan Africa.

Somalia on Sunday marked the first anniversary of al-Shabab's deadliest attack, a truck bombing in Mogadishu that killed well over 500 people. It was one of the world's deadliest attacks since 9/11 and the worst extremist attack in Africa.

The United States, which also has tar-

geted a small number of fighters linked to Islamic State in northern Somalia, has increased its military presence in the long-chaotic Horn of Africa nation since early 2017 to about 500 personnel after President Donald Trump approved expanded military operations.

Al-Shabab, which seeks to establish an Islamic state in Somalia, continues to hold parts of the country's south and central regions after being chased out of Mogadishu several years ago. The group still carries out deadly attacks against high-profile targets such as hotels and checkpoints in the capital and other cities.

2 Koreas, UNC hold talks on disarming JSA

By KIM GAMEL

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The two Koreas and the U.S.-led United Nations Command held their first meeting Tuesday to discuss disarming the heavily fortified border as the neighboring nations press for peace despite slow progress in parallel nuclear talks.

North and South Korea have agreed to turn the Joint Security Area in the truce village of Panmunjom into a weapons-free zone and to begin removing land mines and guard posts from the so-called Demilitarized Zone as part of a wide-ranging military pact last month.

But the southern side of the JSA is ad-

ministered by the UNC, which oversees the 1953 armistice that ended the Korean War in lieu of a peace treaty.

Gen. Vincent Brooks, commander of the UNC and U.S. Forces Korea, said the meeting focused on joining armistice mechanisms with inter-Korean initiatives.

"I am encouraged by this productive, trilateral dialogue," he said in a statement.

The three sides agreed to hold more meetings "in the near future," according to the UNC. It said topics will likely include reducing security personnel and adjusting surveillance equipment.

Military officials from the three sides met for about three hours on the South

Korean side of Panmunjom, according to South Korea's Defense Ministry.

It said the delegations were led by Army Col. Burke Hamilton, secretary of the UNC's military armistice committee; South Korean Col. Cho Yong-geun; and North Korean Col. Om Chang Nam.

The two Koreas have begun a land mine clearance operation in the DMZ, a 2.5-mile-wide, 155-mile-long buffer zone that includes the JSA. The inter-Korean agreement has raised concern that South Korea is moving too fast in embracing the North despite a lack of progress in parallel talks aimed at ridding the communist state of its nuclear weapons.

Navy divers recover oil from sunken Nazi warship

By ERIK SLAVIN

Stars and Stripes

Navy divers finished recovering an estimated 250,000 gallons of oil Monday from a captured warship that survived World War II and two atomic bomb tests before sinking 72 years ago.

The oil extraction from the Prinz Eugen, one of the few WWII German cruisers to be surrendered to the Allies intact, began Sept. 1 off Enubuj Island, a part of Kwajalein Atoll, Marshall Islands.

Mobile Diving Salvage Unit 1, with support from the USNS Salvor and the commercial tanker Humber, recovered 97 percent of the oil aboard Prinz Eugen, a Navy statement said.

The oil was removed due to fears first discussed in a 1974 U.S. government report

that a typhoon could strike the area and cause a major environmental disaster.

It was unclear from the statement whether any significant amount of oil has leaked since the ship sank; however, there are no longer any active leaks, said Lt. Cmdr. Tim Emge, who headed the salvage operation for the Navy.

The waters in the region are known for their vibrant coral reefs and aquatic life. Two years of preparation "enabled our success in this very important mission to protect the pristine waters of Kwajalein Atoll from the risk of a catastrophic oil release," said Stephanie Bocek, project manager at the Navy's Supervisor of Salvage and Diving command.

The salvage team placed nine anchors to hold the two support ships over the wreck.

Divers then drilled holes on top of each oil tank in a process called "hot tapping."

The Prinz Eugen began service just prior to WWII and sailed along with the battleship USS Bismarck in May 1941 during the Battle of the Denmark Strait. The two ships combined to sink the battle cruiser HMS Hood, the pride of the British navy, and damaged the new battleship HMS Prince of Wales in a defeat that sent shockwaves through the world at the time.

Days later, British warships and bombers cornered and destroyed the Bismarck. But Prinz Eugen had been diverted elsewhere and continued service in the Baltic. After the German surrender in 1945, the British took control and then turned the ship over to the U.S. Navy, after which it became the USS Prinz Eugen.

Marine correctional unit focuses on rehab

By MATTHEW M. BURKE

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Pvt. Colton Cornelius and Lance Cpl. Wellington Daniels have made mistakes.

The two III Marine Expeditionary Force Marines drew the ire of their commanders recently for minor alcohol-related infractions while stationed on the tiny southern Japanese island prefecture of Okinawa. But leadership determined they were valuable to their units and should be given another chance rather than punished with separation from the Marines.

They were placed in the Correctional Custody Unit, a new rehabilitation program aimed at setting Marines on the straight and narrow and reintegrating them into their units.

Dubbed CCU 2.0, the program began May 2 at Camp Hansen and soon could be launched at stateside Marine bases.

Cornelius and Daniels thought the program was going to be mostly manual labor and grueling punishment.

“I was watching old videos and all I saw was the hammering rocks, so I’m like, ‘We’re going to be busting rocks in jail?’ and I’m like, ‘man,’” said Daniels, 28, a motor vehicle operator from Miami. “But when I first came in, it was totally different.”

The program includes mindfulness training, goal-setting and classes on a variety of topics, such as financial literacy and learning the jobs of other Marines, such as machine-gun operation.

Marine officials are optimistic about the program.

“The mission is to get that wayward Marine to serve their initial contract obligations,” said Gunnery Sgt. Loren Ortiz, staff noncommissioned officer in charge. “Anything after that is icing on the cake — re-enlistment, meritorious promotion ... We’ve received support from the highest levels of leadership.”

Participants are called “awardees” and spend seven or 30 days under the constant watch and critique of a senior watch stander and assigned watch standers. Each awardee has an individual dorm room with a bed, sink, water fountain and toilet. The program can accommodate 32 servicemembers at a time.

When it was launched in May at the Camp Hansen brig, planners decided to scrap a controversial part of the program that saw flak jacket-clad Marines pulverizing rocks with sledge hammers in the Okinawan heat.

Day 1

On Aug. 15, the seven-man Class 4-TAC-18 arrived in the rain outside the Hansen brig. Only the fourth class to go through

History of CCU

The first CCU program was started in 1979 to give commanders an alternative to discharging undeveloped or immature servicemembers who get into trouble for minor violations of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. It became widespread in the mid-1990s, around the time one was founded at Camp Hansen, Marine officials have said. Marine Corps hubs of Camp Lejeune in North Carolina and Camp Pendleton in California also had versions of the penal institution and program.

The units were known for strenuous physical training that resembled boot camp and were last operated in the United States and on Okinawa in 2004, when they were ended due to staffing shortages while the U.S. military was preoccupied in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In recent years, Marine leaders on Okinawa began looking to revive the program to cut down on administrative separations and help Marines finish their enlistments honorably. Headquarters Marine Corps approved the relaunch in February.

the fledgling program, they stood outside with sea bags slung over their shoulders and were told to enter one at a time for in-processing.

The first Marine through the thick steel door didn’t make it one step before a watch stander was in his face shouting about neglecting to give the proper greeting.

“Get out,” he barked.

The Marine exited and re-entered.

“Good morning, gentlemen,” he said sheepishly.

The awardee was instructed to dump his sea bag’s contents onto the deck and segregate it. His cellphone, wallet and other personal items were confiscated as contraband. He was given a foot locker and told which items should go inside. They were checked as each item was entered.

This process was repeated for each Marine while a commanding officer met with Ortiz to go over any health concerns the awardees might have, appointments and rules for visitation.

Next, awardees stood on footprints, just like in boot camp. But these were not the kind welcoming them to the Marine Corps; these welcomed them to the portion of the brig where incarcerated inmates are housed.

Day 16

The CCU program is broken up into three weeklong periods called “conducts,”

Ortiz said. Conduct 1, the first week, is the most strict. Rules are established, and battlefield communication — shouting, essentially — is used to enforce them. A board approves passage to the next phase.

“First thing I thought was everything was like boot camp all over again,” Daniels said. “Everything was stern, discipline, everything had to be done to the exact ‘T.’”

In Conduct 2, watch standers ease off and let appointed awardee squad leaders delegate and lead. Watch standers interject when necessary.

During Conduct 3 — the release phase — watch standers generally don’t need to step in.

On Aug. 31, the awardees completed a 3-mile run with cadence at 6 a.m. with the law enforcement battalion. They showered and got into their dress uniforms for inspection.

The process was rigorous.

The awardees changed out of their dress uniforms and filed into a classroom. They went over essays they had written and watched a video about goals, happiness, health and inner well-being by motivational philosopher Jay Shetty.

Correctional treatment specialist Michael Long asked the class about some of the things that bring short-term happiness as opposed to long-term or total happiness. They discussed goals.

They also participated in mindfulness training. Long said that’s one of the most beneficial aspects of the CCU program.

“We try to get them to be more reflective of what they’re doing; I think it’s getting them to slow down a little bit,” he said. “Making a good decision, making a bad decision is just that brief moment; anger is a secondary emotion. So, if somebody is out drinking and they get mad, having the ability to just take a breath, think, can help you make the right decision.”

Day 28

By Sept. 12, the Conduct 3 awardees were ready to return to their units. They donned dress uniforms and made their way by van to the Camp Hansen theater. A torii gate had been set up on the stage along with the U.S. and Marine Corps flags.

Friends and members of their units sat in the audience as a show of support.

After several speeches extolling their accomplishments, the awardees were called to the stage one by one. They received a certificate and shook hands with Ortiz and CCU 2.0 commander Chief Warrant Officer Rachel Jacobs. They walked with pride and there were no signs of shame or dishonor.

“It feels great to graduate,” Cornelius said. “I still plan on improving.”

Trump calls Warren DNA test of heritage a 'scam'

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Tuesday morning called Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., a “complete and total Fraud,” opening a second day of sparring between the current White House occupant and a likely 2020 challenger over her Native American heritage.

In morning tweets, Trump claimed a DNA test shared by Warren on Monday was “a scam and a lie” and called on her to “apologize for perpetrating this fraud against the American Public.”

The DNA test, conducted by a Stanford University professor, concluded that there was “strong evidence” that the senator had a Native American in her family tree dating back six to 10 generations.

Trump seized on reports that the findings mean Warren is between 1/64th and 1/1,024 Native American, depending on how distant her relative is.

“Pocahontas (the bad version), sometimes referred to as Elizabeth Warren, is getting slammed,” Trump said in one of his tweets. “She took a bogus DNA test and it showed that she may be 1/1024, far less than the average American.”

Trump also highlighted a statement from Cherokee Nation Secretary of State Chuck Hoskin Jr., who said Monday

that “a DNA test is useless to determine tribal citizenship” and that it was wrong to use one to claim any connection to the tribe.

“Even they don’t want her. Phony!” Trump said, thanking the tribe in a subsequent tweet.

Trump also claimed that Warren would not have been hired as a Harvard law professor if not for claiming to be a “person of color.” That claim is at odds with a Boston Globe report last month that found Warren’s claim to Native American ethnicity was never considered by the Harvard Law faculty.

Trump tweeted, “Now that her claims of being of Indian heritage have turned out to be a scam and a lie, Elizabeth Warren should apologize for perpetrating this fraud against the American Public. Harvard called her ‘a person of color’ (amazing con), and would not have taken her otherwise!”

“Thank you to the Cherokee Nation for revealing that Elizabeth Warren, sometimes referred to as Pocahontas, is a complete and total Fraud!”

Warren’s release of the DNA report on Monday was accompanied by a nearly six-minute, campaign-style video that recounted her background and takes direct aim at Trump, with Warren saying his mocking of Native Americans is “not what America stands for.”

Families still seek those missing since Hurricane Michael

Associated Press

PANAMA CITY, Fla. — Joanne Garone Behnke has replayed every possible scenario in her mind a hundred times.

Maybe her aunt, Aggie Vicari, 79, sought shelter at the sturdy condo nearby that withstood Hurricane Michael’s devastating winds. Maybe she was rescued and is lying in a hospital bed somewhere. The pile of rubble that was once her Mexico Beach, Fla., home is shallow, too shallow for a body to go unnoticed, Garone Behnke tells herself.

“It’s torture,” said Garone Behnke, who last talked to Vicari right before the storm hit, begging her to leave her cinder-block home.

Days after the hurricane slammed into the Florida Panhandle, people are struggling to locate friends and loved ones who haven’t been heard from. How many are missing seems to be anyone’s guess.

“I’ve been on the phone to reporters, to fire chiefs, to heads of the task force from Miami, to you name it, I’ve called them.

I’ve called every hospital,” Garone Behnke said Monday, then stopped to look at a text from the fire chief in Mexico Beach.

To her disappointment, it read: “We’re still working on it. ... We’ll keep you posted.”

As President Donald Trump visited the devastated zone, the death toll from Michael’s march from Florida to Virginia stood at 17, and the search for victims continued.

Since the storm, many people have been rescued from the devastated zones. Emergency officials said that because of widespread cellphone outages, others could be safe and just haven’t been able to tell friends or family.

There was just one confirmed death so far in Mexico Beach, the town of about 1,000 people that was nearly wiped off the map in a direct hit from the hurricane and its 155 mph winds.

Mexico Beach City Clerk Adrian Welle told local media Sunday that 46 people were unaccounted for. That number had previously been 285, but officials think many left right before the storm hit.

McSally in Ariz. Senate debate: Sinema backed ‘treason’

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Republican Rep. Martha McSally accused her Democratic opponent, Rep. Kyrsten Sinema, of supporting “treason,” citing a 2003 radio interview — a charge Sinema dismissed as part of a “ridiculous” negative campaign during Monday’s debate in the race for Arizona’s open Senate seat.

McSally, a former Air Force colonel and combat pilot, made the explosive charge in the final moments of the debate that had already included heated clashes over issues such as health care and immigration.

When she was asked the final question, about climate change, McSally complained there’d been no discussion of national security in the hourlong debate, the only one of the campaign. She attacked Sinema for protesting the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and referenced the 2003 radio interview in which the host engaged in a lengthy, rambling hypothetical that ends with him asking Sinema if she’d be OK with him joining the Taliban.

“I don’t care if you want to do that, go ahead,” Sinema replied in that interview, before asking

if they can return to explaining her anti-war stance.

McSally described that exchange Monday as Sinema saying “it was OK for Americans to join the Taliban to fight against us.” Then, turning toward Sinema and pointing at the Democrat, she asked if she going to apologize to veterans like herself for saying “it was OK to commit treason.”

Sinema said, “Martha has chosen to run a campaign like the one you’re seeing right now where she’s engaging in ridiculous attacks.” After the debate, Sinema called the charge

“ridiculous.”

The two congresswomen are vying for the seat of Republican Sen. Jeff Flake, who is retiring.

McSally was a Donald Trump critic in 2016 and represents a Tucson district that voted for Hillary Clinton. She’s now embraced the president and hopes his visit to Arizona on Friday helps unites Republicans against Sinema.

Sinema represents a district based in the Phoenix suburb of Tempe and is a former Green Party activist who transformed herself into a centrist Democrat.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Police: Body in park was found on fire

OH UPPER ARLINGTON — Police said a woman's body found in a park in Ohio over the weekend was on fire when authorities arrived.

Police in the Columbus suburb of Upper Arlington initially reported that a body was found shortly after 8:30 a.m. Sunday in Burbank Park under suspicious circumstances.

Officer Bryan McKean said later that firefighters were called to the park on the report of a fire and found the body after extinguishing the blaze. A cause of death hasn't been released.

McKean said the unidentified woman is believed to have been between the ages of 18 and 30.

Man accused of illegal circumcision of teens

MO SPRINGFIELD — A Missouri man who started his own religious ministry has been charged with illegally circumcising two teenagers.

The Springfield News-Leader reported that Curtis Abbott, 47, of Nixa, pleaded not guilty to two counts of child endangerment and one count of unauthorized practice of medicine or surgery. Abbott sent a statement to the News-Leader calling the allegations "false."

A hearing is scheduled for this week.

Man held over display of exotic animals

MA FRAMINGHAM — Police said they seized an alligator, a python and tarantulas from a Rhode Island man who was charging

people to take pictures with the creatures at a comic book convention in Massachusetts.

Framingham police confiscated the animals and arrested the 41-year-old man from Warwick, R.I., on an unrelated warrant. Authorities have not released his identity.

Police said they received a tip the man was charging Super Megafest Comic-Con attendees to take pictures with the animals.

Massachusetts Environmental Police have taken custody of the animals, and the suspect was issued a wildlife summons.

2 people hospitalized after car hits moose

ID COEUR D'ALENE — Idaho State Police said two people were hospitalized after their car struck a moose on U.S. 95 south of Coeur d'Alene.

The Coeur d'Alene Press reported that a Subaru Legacy driven by Derek Gregory, 34, of Hayden, was traveling south on U.S. 95 at 2:34 a.m. Saturday when it struck the moose.

Police said the moose was struck again by a Dodge Intrepid driven by Walter Betts, of Rathdrum. He was not hurt.

Gregory and his passenger, Amanda McCarthy, of Post Falls, were transported to Kootenai Health with undisclosed injuries.

Ex-sheriff to plead guilty to taking bribe

MS OXFORD — A former Mississippi sheriff plans to plead guilty to a charge in connection with bribes that prosecutors say he took to protect a drug dealer for 15 years.

Court documents show a hearing is set Nov. 1 for former

Tallahatchie County Sheriff William Brewer to plead guilty to a count associated with \$6,500 in cash that prosecutors say he took from the drug dealer in June.

Brewer agreed to stay in jail until the hearing after officials accused him of violating his bail terms. He faces up to 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Officer fired 6 times ordered rehired again

FL OPA-LOCKA — A Florida police officer who has been arrested and cleared three times and fired six times is back on patrol.

The Miami Herald reported that an arbitrator ordered the Opa-locka police department to rehire Sgt. German Bosque.

He had been fired in 2013 after being charged with handcuffing and cursing at a youth counselor who filed a complaint against him. He was acquitted of battery but was convicted of evidence tampering; that charge later was dropped while the conviction was being appealed.

A 2011 Sarasota Herald-Tribune report found Bosque had been the subject of 40 internal affairs complaints, including 16 for battery or excessive force.

Students warned not to crawl under trains

KS WICHITA — Officials for a Wichita school are raising concerns that trains are stalled for so long on nearby tracks that students are crawling under boxcars and across the couplings to get home.

The Wichita Eagle reported that Hamilton Middle School principal Justin Kasel said trains traveling just north of the school sometimes are stopped for up to an hour, tying up traffic. More than two-thirds of

Hamilton's 600 students don't qualify for buses, so they either walk or get rides.

A school employee posted a video to Facebook after witnessing students taking dangerous risks Oct. 9 when a train stalled.

Work on anti-suicide fence set to start

VT QUECHEE — The construction of a temporary fence meant to prevent suicides at a Vermont bridge over a deep gorge was to begin this week.

During daytime construction, traffic over the U.S. Route 4 Quechee Gorge bridge over the Ottauquechee River will be restricted to one lane for a month.

The fencing is a suicide-prevention measure that follows a number of suicides and other incidents at the gorge. The fence also is designed to improve pedestrian and first responder safety.

Police look for man in elevator assault

NY NEW YORK — Police are looking for a man who followed a woman into a downtown Manhattan apartment building, sexually abused her in the elevator and then choked her after she tried to flee.

The New York Police Department said the attack happened last week near East 20th Street and Avenue C.

Police said the man groped and kissed the 42-year-old woman in the elevator. They said that when she ran out, he tried to pull her into a stairwell, got on top of her and choked her. She screamed, and he fled.

She was taken to a hospital in stable condition.

From wire reports

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Sixers' Embiid ready to lead

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Make no mistake: The 76ers are Joel Embiid's team.

That's why he has a five-year, \$146.5 million contract extension despite having yet to play a full season.

Like Embiid, 6-foot-10 point guard Ben Simmons is a generational player. But there's no denying that Embiid is the alpha dog of the Sixers.

As a result, every opposing team's scouting report begins with trying to find a way to contain the 7-foot-2, rock-solid post player. That task is expected to be tougher. Embiid, an NBA All-Star Game starter last season, is the best that he's ever been. It has a lot to do with not having any summer or pre-season workout restrictions for the first time since being picked third overall in the 2014 NBA Draft.

That means Embiid didn't have a minutes restriction Tuesday night as he had in the team's previous two season openers. The Sixers kicked off one of their most anticipated seasons in recent decades against the Boston Celtics.

"I kind of count this as my rookie season, because I'm coming in healthy," said Embiid, who finally enters the season on a level playing field with other players in terms of health. "For the first time ever, I got a chance to work on my basketball skills, which I feel like I've already gotten so much better with the help of the coaches and my trainer, Drew (Hanlen)."

Determined to become this season's NBA MVP, the 24-year-old realizes that he still needs to work on his weaknesses, such as shot selection and ball handling.

It's no secret that Embiid has the ability to dominate and foul out opponents when in the paint. However, he also has had a tendency to turn the ball over against double teams or while dribbling too much. Embiid had 10 regular-season games with at least seven turnovers last season. He had a season-worst nine March 19 against the Charlotte Hornets. For his

career, Embiid averages 3.7 turnovers.

His being one of the most versatile big men in the game also leads to poor shot selection.

He can turn and face up. Embiid has an 18-foot "rocket-space isolation spot" on the floor, coach Brett Brown said, from which he routinely sticks jumpers. The Sixers also have had some success when he shoots wide-open three-pointers while trailing on fast breaks.

But sometimes, he settles too much for ill-timed three-pointers.

This preseason was a prime example. Despite dominating in the paint, he had stretches in which he kept chucking up three-pointers, making just 2 of 18 (11 percent). Embiid missed all nine of his attempts in the final two preseason games.

So the Sixers want him to incorporate more of what they call "bully ball" into his game this season. To them, "bully ball" — getting the ball in the paint and attacking the rim — will yield more free-throw attempts for Embiid.

"I'm still learning," he said. "You know I started playing basketball seven years ago. There's still a lot to learn, adapting to double teams and playing through contact, which I'm going to do more of this year."

"Occasionally, if I'm wide open, I'm going to take a three-pointer."

The internal expectation is that Embiid will be a dominant force this season, and it's hard to believe that many outside the organization will disagree.

Embiid showed last season that he's a big-game player who excels on the national stage. The second-team all-NBA selection averaged 22.9 points, 10.9 rebounds, 3.1 assists, and 1.76 blocks in 63 regular-season games. He also finished sixth in the league in defensive rating (99.7), an analytics statistic that measures a player's ability to prevent the other team from scoring.

His most memorable performance came during a 115-109 victory over the Los Angeles

Lakers in November. He had career highs of 46 points and seven blocks to go with seven assists at the Staples Center. Embiid also had career bests in made field goals (14), made free throws (16), and free-throw attempts (19). He added 15 rebounds and what at the time was a season-low two turnovers.

This game was a prime example of what he's capable of doing when he takes care of the ball and stays in the paint. Embiid attempted just three three-pointers, making two of them.

"His size and ball skills are amazing," Dallas Mavericks coach Rick Carlisle said. "His strength in the post and around the basket are very difficult to deal with, and he's a long-range shooter that can drive the ball."

"He has all the skills that the future 5 men in the NBA will have. He's really, really good," Carlisle added.

But Embiid also has been really, really injury-prone.

Embiid missed 19 games last season because of rest or ailments. His most prominent injury was the orbital bone fracture near his left eye that he suffered against the New York Knicks in late March. That injury sidelined him for the final eight regular-season games and first two games in the opening-round playoff series against the Miami Heat.

He also missed his first two seasons because of foot surgeries. He was on a minutes restriction and unable to play on back-to-back days during the 2016-17 season. That campaign concluded in March 2017 with knee surgery, which prohibited him from working out that summer. Embiid began last season with a minutes restriction, and he was prohibited by the coaches to play on consecutive nights.

With the injuries behind him, it's easy to marvel at his potential.

"The way he competes, the ways he wants to grow, the way he wants to get better, it's just uncanny with the skills that he has and that size that he has," Sixers general manager Elton Brand said.

Sports briefs

Bosa leaves OSU for NFL

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Injured defensive end Nick Bosa has decided to leave school to focus on getting ready for the NFL Draft in the spring, Ohio State said Tuesday.

The junior All-American from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., already had four sacks this season when he suffered a core muscle injury on Sept. 15 in the third game of the season. He had surgery five days later, and no timetable was set for his return to the team.

Considered one of the best players in college football, Bosa had left no doubt that he would leave school after this season to enter the draft. He planned to follow the same path as his older brother, Joey, who left Ohio State a year early and now plays for the Los Angeles Chargers.

Nick Bosa had tied his career high of five tackles twice in the first three games this season, and he was leading the team in tackles with 14, including six for losses.

That came to an abrupt halt when he went down early in the third quarter against TCU.

"I was hopeful that Nick would be able to return to play again for us," Ohio State coach Urban Meyer said. "I know this was an extremely difficult and emotional decision for Nick and his family, and I wish him well as he moves on to get himself 100 percent healthy and ready for his next chapter."

Nance signs \$44.8M, 4-year deal with Cavs

CLEVELAND — Larry Nance Jr. looked out at the crowd gathered in the gym and knew he made the right choice.

He's staying home.

"I'm one of you guys," he said. "I really am. I'm a Cleveland guy at heart."

Nance signed a \$44.8 million, four-year contract extension on Monday with the Cavaliers, the team his father starred for and the one he hopes to help rebuild without LeBron James.

Brewers blank Dodgers, take series lead

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Milwaukee Brewers know they can count on their intimidating bullpen to get outs. They may not have been expecting a twice-demoted shortstop to generate so much offense.

Jhoulys Chacin combined with four relievers on a five-hitter and Orlando Arcia hit a two-run homer in a 4-0 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers on Monday that gave Milwaukee a 2-1 lead in the NL Championship Series.

Los Angeles loaded the bases against Jeremy Jeffress in the ninth inning, but the struggling closer shut the door. He struck out Yasmani Grandal and pinch-hitter Brian Dozier to complete Milwaukee's third shutout in six playoff games this year.

"We feel like we're in really good shape," manager Craig Counsell said.

Ryan Braun had an early RBI double off rookie Walker Buehler, who struck out eight in seven innings. Travis Shaw tripled and scored on a wild pitch in the sixth.

Arcia connected for his third

postseason homer in the seventh, his second in two games.

"It's a different guy every single day and we've got contributions up and down the roster," Shaw said. "It's been the story of our season."

Chacin scattered three hits over 5¹/₃ innings before giving way to Corey Knebel, who worked 1²/₃ perfect innings and struck out his last four batters.

With a runner on second and the Brewers nursing a 2-0 lead, Knebel got Manny Machado to ground out before whiffing Cody Bellinger to end the sixth. The right-hander then fanned Yasiel Puig, Grandal and Enrique Hernandez in the seventh.

Joakim Soria retired Chris Taylor on a foul popup for the first out of the eighth. Josh Hader, who didn't pitch in Game 2 after tossing three scoreless innings in the opener, needed only eight pitches to strike out pinch-hitters David Freese and Matt Kemp to end the eighth.

"It was good that we only used Hader for two outs," Shaw said. "I know we've got three in a row, so he'll be good to go [Tuesday] and that's a big thing

for us."

Hader rarely pitches on consecutive days, but his light workload Monday could give Counsell some options.

"We're playing to win the series, not just games. Obviously with Josh doing not as much tonight, there's lots of possibilities there going forward," he said.

Justin Turner singled and Machado doubled to start the ninth for Los Angeles. Bellinger popped out and slammed his bat before Puig drew a walk, but Counsell stayed with Jeffress, who settled down and came through.

Milwaukee's vaunted bullpen delivered after the Dodgers hit .333 and scored eight of their nine runs against Brewers relievers during the first two games in Milwaukee, both decided by one run.

The Dodgers also came up empty against Chacin with the bases loaded in the second, when Buehler took a called third strike to end the inning.

"We had the right guys in those moments and we just didn't execute," manager Dave Roberts said. "We were 0-for-10 with runners in scoring

position."

The Brewers became the first visiting team to pitch a postseason shutout at Dodger Stadium since the Philadelphia Phillies in Game 1 of the 1983 NLCS. Los Angeles had gone 50 consecutive home playoff games without being blanked, the second-longest streak in major league history behind 61 straight for the Boston Red Sox, according to STATS.

The 1905 New York Giants and 1966 Baltimore Orioles were the only other teams to toss three shutouts in their first six games of a postseason, STATS said.

The Brewers entered these playoffs with one shutout in their postseason history.

"Our guys that we're giving the ball to at the start of the game, they're doing a heck of a job, man," Counsell said. "They're setting the tone, really."

Chacin returned to the scene of the Brewers' worst loss of the season, a 21-5 rout on Aug. 2. In that game, he was charged with nine runs — eight earned — and five hits, including a grand slam by Bellinger.

Crosby lifts Packers over 49ers, plays hero this week

Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Mason Crosby smiled as he left the field.

It was quite the week for the Green Bay Packers' veteran kicker.

Crosby hit four field goals, including the winner from 27 yards as time expired to lift the Packers past the San Francisco 49ers 33-30 on Monday night.

"This week was a grind, it was one of the tougher weeks of my career," Crosby said.

It began with rare questions about Crosby's reliability following four missed field goals and an extra-point try in a 31-23 loss in Detroit last week.

It ended with a perfect night against the 49ers. He also hit

from 29, 39 and 51 yards, and made all three extra-point attempts.

"It's very appropriate, what he went through last week, [for] the team to stick with him," Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers said. "And then he responded."

The drive that led to Crosby's winner was extended after cornerback Richard Sherman was flagged for illegal contact on third-and-15 that wiped out a sack with 43 seconds left.

Rodgers rushed up the middle for a 21-yard gain on the next play. The two-time NFL MVP completed two more passes for 19 yards to set up Crosby's winner for Green Bay (3-2-1).

"It doesn't matter if you agree with the call. It's not like,

'Oh, I didn't agree with the call, they're going to pick it up.' They called it. I've got to find a way to do better," Sherman said.

Clutch Rodgers

Rodgers threw for 425 yards and two TDs, both to Davante Adams. The second came with 1:55 left from 16 yards to tie it at 30.

The Packers didn't waste a second chance to get into field-goal range after the penalty on Sherman.

After a spike to stop the clock with 19 seconds left following his 21-yard scramble to the Packers 45, Rodgers hit three straight passes to move Green Bay to the San Francisco 9. The receivers got out of bounds after

each play to buy more time.

"Just the time, and just really the menu (of plays) and the operation, that was a clinic," coach Mike McCarthy said.

Late pick

C.J. Beathard passed for 245 yards and two long touchdowns to speedy receiver Marquise Goodwin for the 49ers (1-5).

For a while it looked like they might hold on for their first victory since quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo was lost for the year in Week 3 with a torn ACL.

Turnovers hurt them again — three more on Monday night, but none bigger than cornerback Kevin King's interception of a deep pass down the middle at the Packers 10.

Frost hopes Huskers aren't used to losing

Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — In the 24 hours after Nebraska's excruciating loss to Northwestern, and with no wins through six games, first-year coach Scott Frost started to wonder if his team would fall into the trap of accepting losing.

He said he saw encouraging signs at Monday's practice.

"Not only was it our best Monday ever, by far, it probably was our best overall practice of the year," he said. "I told the guys after practice it says a lot about who they are, how they responded."

That's not to say Frost isn't still worried about the mental state of his team as it prepares for a home game against Minnesota (3-3, 0-3 Big Ten) on

Saturday. The Cornhuskers are off to their worst start in the program's 129-year history, and their 10-game losing streak also is a school record.

The 34-31 overtime loss at Northwestern was the biggest gut-punch of this difficult season.

The Huskers led 31-21 with 5 minutes left in regulation. Nebraska's meltdown the rest of the way included allowing a fourth-and-10 conversion, pass interference, roughing the passer — all before Clayton Thorson finished off a 99-yard drive that tied it — and then a false start and a snap between Adrian Martinez's legs in overtime.

Frost said he asked his players at a meeting Monday what goes through their minds when

they are ahead by 10 points late in the fourth quarter or by seven points with 2 minutes left, as was the case this past Saturday. He said he didn't ask anyone to answer.

"But at that point, were you thinking, 'I'm going to go finish this' or in the back of your mind were you thinking, 'Oh, no, here we go again?' I'm sure there were some guys like that," Frost said. "Even if it wasn't the majority what they were thinking, it probably was in the back of their head and naturally so. They haven't won in a while. We need to get over that hurdle as a group."

Martinez said the mental challenge that comes with going winless through the first half of the season is "a tough one."

"It's believing in each other,

having confidence despite our 0-6 start and falling back on our hard work and knowing it's not for nothing," he said, "and knowing we have the capability to win games and play well."

Martinez said he agreed with Frost that losing can come to be accepted when it happens so often.

"I think it's more of that thing where you're late in a game and it's tight and believing you're going to win because this is what we do as opposed to maybe getting used to losing, having that feeling of doubt," he said. "In my mind, I always believe we're going to win regardless of who we're playing, what time it is in the game. I don't lose that faith and I believe a lot of us are the same way."

NHL roundup

Backup Sparks shuts down Kings in Maple Leafs' rout

Associated Press

TORONTO — Garret Sparks had a lot of thoughts before his first start of the season earlier this month. He didn't have a chance to overthink his second outing.

The backup goalie made 33 saves in place of the injured Frederik Andersen, Kasper Kapanen scored twice and the Toronto Maple Leafs beat the Los Angeles Kings 4-1 Monday night for their fifth straight win.

Sparks allowed six goals on 31 shots in a wild 7-6 overtime triumph in Chicago on Oct. 7 against the Blackhawks — the team he grew up cheering for as a kid in the nearby suburb of Elmhurst, Ill. He was much sharper against Los Angeles in his first home appearance for the Maple Leafs since April 6, 2016.

"When you're starting the season on the road, in Chicago, Stan Mikita night ... there's a lot of stuff buzzing around," Sparks said of the game at United Center. "It was a really emotional day for me."

Maple Leafs coach Mike Babcock announced Sparks as the game's starter ahead of No. 1 goalie Frederik Andersen after the morning skate. Toronto then announced about 2½ hours before puck drop that Andersen has a lower-body injury and is listed as day-to-day, with Eamon McAdam getting recalled from Newfoundland of the ECHL on an emergency basis.

"I wasn't anticipating playing when I went to bed (Sunday)," said Sparks, who was the AHL goalie of the year last season. "But that's the nature of this position — having to be ready and being able to perform when you're called upon."

Babcock said after the game he expects Andersen to start when the Leafs host the Pittsburgh Penguins on Thursday.

Patrick Marleau and Mitch Marner also scored to help Toronto win for the sixth time in seven games. Auston Matthews and Jake Gardiner each added two assists.

Predators 4, Wild 2: Ryan Johansen and P.K. Subban

each had two assists, and host Nashville won for the fifth time in six games.

Craig Smith, Mattias Ekholm, Filip Forsberg and Miikka Salomaki scored for Nashville, and Pekka Rinne finished with 29 saves.

Minnesota lost for the fourth time in five games. Mikko Koivu had a goal and an assist for the Wild, and Matt Dumba also scored.

Alex Stalock finished with 24 saves for the Wild in his first start of the season.

Canadiens 7, Red Wings 3: Jonathan Drouin scored twice, Tomas Plekanec had a goal in his 1,000th game, and host Montreal beat winless Detroit.

Tomas Tatar, Brendan Gallagher, Charles Hudon and Paul Byron also scored for the Canadiens. With Carey Price still out with the flu, backup goalie Antti Niemi stopped 25 shots for his second consecutive victory.

Andreas Athanasiou had two goals and Thomas Vanek also scored for the rebuilding Wings, who are 0-4-2 for

their worst start in franchise history.

Jimmy Howard gave up five goals on 20 shots before being replaced by Jonathan Bernier in the second period. Bernier finished with 13 saves.

The Red Wings, who were coming off an 8-2 loss to Boston, have now allowed an NHL-worst 29 goals over six games.

Senators 4, Stars 1: Craig Anderson made 37 saves to lead Ottawa past Dallas.

Maxime Lajoie scored in the second period, and Brady Tkachuk, Mikkel Boedker and Zack Smith all tallied in the third for the Senators.

John Klingberg had the lone goal for Dallas, which was playing its first road game after opening the season with four at home. Ben Bishop made 21 saves while losing in regulation against Ottawa for the first time (9-1-4) in his career.

With the score tied 1-1, the Senators went ahead for good early in the third as Dylan DeMelo put a shot on goal and Tkachuk, right in front, redirected it past Bishop at 1:27.