

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Americans commemorate 9/11 attacks

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The U.S. marked the 15th anniversary of 9/11 on Sunday, with victims' relatives reading their names and reflecting on a loss that still felt as immediate to them as it was indelible for the nation.

"It doesn't get easier. The grief never goes away. You don't move forward — it always stays with you," said Tom Acquaviva, who lost his son, Paul Acquaviva, as he joined over 1,000 victims' family members, survivors and dignitaries at ground zero under an overcast sky.

James Johnson, a retired New York City police sergeant who is now police chief in Forest City, Pa., was there for the first time since he last worked on the rescue and recovery efforts in early 2002.

"I've got mixed emotions, but I'm still kind of numb," he said. "I think everyone needs closure, and this is my time to have closure."

Despite a tradition of putting aside partisan politics for the day, the observance became part of the news of a combustible presidential campaign when Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton left about 90 minutes into the ground zero ceremony after feeling "overheated," her campaign said.

Spokesman Nick Merrill said in a statement that Clinton was feeling better after spending some time at her daughter's apartment but offered no additional details, including whether Clinton required medical attention.

Republican rival Donald Trump, who was also at the ceremony for a time, didn't immediately comment on the developments. His supporters have repeatedly questioned Clinton's health.

The 15th anniversary arrives in a country caught up in the campaign, keenly focused on

15th anniversary at Pentagon

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama on Sunday morning stood solemnly in the spot where, 15 years earlier, terrorists flew a hijacked commercial airliner into one of the nation's most iconic buildings, a symbol of American power.

In the shadow of the Pentagon's western-most side, the president joined a small crowd of survivors of the attack on the Defense Department's headquarters and the family members of others who died Sept. 11, 2001.

He delivered a message of hope and continued perseverance on the anniversary of one of the nation's darkest days.

"We remember and we will never forget the 3,000 beautiful lives taken from us, including 184 men, women and children here," Obama said on his final Sept. 11 as commander in chief. "You — the survivors and families of 9/11 — your steadfast love and faithfulness has been an inspiration to me and to our entire country. Together, there is nothing we Americans cannot overcome."

The attacks 15 years ago at the World Trade Center in New York, the Pentagon and in a Pennsylvania field inspired a generation of Americans to dedicate their lives to serving the nation, in uniform and out.

The president thanked the "extraordinary" individuals who have joined the military that has dealt "devastating blows to al-Qaida," the Navy SEALs who "made sure justice was finally" brought to Osama bin Laden and the more than 5,000 service-members who have died on battlefields in Iraq and Afghanistan since the 9/11 attacks.

The terrorism threat has evolved in the 15 years since the attacks, Obama said. He spoke of the "unspeakable violence" that has occurred in recent years across the country in Boston, San Bernardino, Calif., and Orlando, Fla., vowing groups such as al-Qaida and the Islamic State will "never be able to defeat a nation as strong as America."

The nation is strong because of those Americans who have made the ultimate sacrifice, said Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The nation's top general asked servicemembers to remember the reason their fallen brothers and sisters served — because of their belief in the United States of America.

"We serve because of our belief in high ideals, and we serve to protect our families, friends and fellow citizens," Dunford said.

political, economic and social fissures and still fighting terrorism. But for those who lost relatives, the fraught passage of 15 years feels "like 15 sec-

onds," said Dorothy Esposito, who lost her son, Frankie.

Nearly 3,000 people died when hijacked planes slammed into the World Trade Center,

the Pentagon and a field near Shanksville, Pa., on Sept. 11, 2001. It was the deadliest terror attack on American soil.

Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson said on Sunday news shows that the United States is safer now than it was in 2001 against another 9/11-style attack but continues to face the challenge of potential attacks by solo and homegrown violent extremists.

President Barack Obama, speaking at the Pentagon memorial service, praised America's diversity and urged Americans not to let their enemies divide them.

"Our patchwork heritage is not a weakness — it is still and always will be one of our greatest strengths," Obama said. "This is the America that was attacked that September morning. This is the America that we must remain true to."

Some victims' relatives at ground zero pleaded for the nation to look past its differences.

"The things we think separate us really don't. We're all part of this one Earth in this vast universe," said Granville Kestenbaum, who lost her astrophysicist husband, Howard Kestenbaum.

Others expressed hopes for peace or alluded to the presidential race: "Guide America's next commander in chief and help make America safe again," said Nicholas Haros, who lost his mother, Frances Haros.

Neither Clinton nor Trump made public remarks at the ceremony, where politicians haven't been invited to speak since 2011. The two candidates also followed a custom of halting television ads for the day.

Meanwhile, hundreds of people gathered for a name-reading observance at the Flight 93 National Memorial in Shanksville, where one of the hijacked planes crashed 15 years ago.

Trump derides Clinton's comment on 'deplorables'

Associated Press

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. — Republican Donald Trump is condemning Hillary Clinton's remark that half of his supporters could be put in a "basket of deplorables" and dismissing her admission that she was wrong, saying the Democrat had committed "the worst mistake of the political season."

"For the first time in a long while, her true feelings came out, showing bigotry and hatred for millions of Americans," Trump said Saturday in a statement rejecting her effort to walk back her remarks. "How can she be president of our country when she has such contempt and disdain for so many great Americans?"

Trump's statement came after Clinton had backed off her disdainful description of half of his supporters. In her initial remarks Friday night at a private fundraiser in New York City, she said: "To just be grossly generalistic, you could put half

of Trump's supporters into what I call the basket of deplorables. Right? The racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic, Islamophobic — you name it."

Her remarks drew enough controversy that by midday Saturday, she tried to refocus her criticism squarely on Trump.

"Last night, I was 'grossly generalistic,' and that's never a good idea. I regret saying 'half' — that was wrong." She added: "He has built his campaign largely on prejudice and paranoia and given a national platform to hateful views and voices, including by retweeting fringe bigots with a few dozen followers and spreading their message to 11 million people."

In his response, Trump said: "Isn't it disgraceful that Hillary Clinton makes the worst mistake of the political season and instead of owning up to this grotesque attack on American voters, she tries to turn it around with a pathetic rehash of the words and insults used in her failing campaign?"

Clinton raising funds with vigor despite edge on cash

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Hillary Clinton could spend \$2.2 million every day until the Nov. 8 election without running out of money. And every month, she widens her cash advantage over Donald Trump. As of Sept. 1, it was a \$55 million gulf.

Yet the Democratic nominee is not letting up on gas when it comes to fundraising.

Clinton planned to return to California on Monday for still more finance events after a lucrative August swing through dot-com mansions in Silicon Valley and celebrity-packed dinners in Los Angeles.

Her allies say the continued fundraising helps other Democrats because the party can keep building up voter turnout

operations.

Even when Clinton is busy campaigning, wallets are still flying open for her.

As she wrapped up a speech in Kansas City on Thursday night, running mate Tim Kaine was in New York entertaining five donors who'd given \$500,000. A day later, Clinton was in the city, telling donors, "I'm all that stands between you and the apocalypse" at a private concert headlined by Barbra Streisand.

Clinton scooped up well over \$1.2 million from the 1,000-donor event, — which was just hours after another, far more exclusive fundraiser at the home of private equity firm executive Hamilton "Tony" James. The 30 people at his home together chipped in at least \$1.5 million.

Navy displays \$4.4B futuristic destroyer

Associated Press

NEWPORT, R.I. — The Navy gave a first look inside the stealthy and futuristic Zumwalt destroyer on Friday during the ship's first port stop at a Rhode Island naval station.

The 610-foot-long warship has an angular shape to minimize its radar signature and it cost more than \$4.4 billion. It's the most expensive destroyer built for the Navy.

It's headed from Naval Station Newport to Baltimore, where it will be commissioned in October before going to its homeport in San Diego. It was built at Bath Iron Works in Maine.

During a tour, the Navy showed off the ship's bridge, weaponry and mission center. In the bridge, there are 180-degree windows and chairs for the ship's captain and executive officer to command the vessel. They overlook two gun mounts that resemble cannon barrels. The Zumwalt's powerful, new gun system can unload 600 rocket-powered projectiles onto targets more than 70 miles away.

In the mission center, about two dozen people can sit at consoles with multiple computer screens to plan missions ranging from land attack and air defense to anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare and support for special operations forces. There's a large flight deck and two small boats on board in a bay that those forces can use.

It looks like a much smaller vessel on radar and it's quieter than other ships, making it hard to detect, track and attack.

Vice Adm. Tom Rowden mans, trains and equips the surface ships of the Pacific fleet, which will include the Zumwalt. He said Friday that the Zumwalt will make a significant difference.

Its advanced technology and

capabilities allow it to do a range of defensive and offensive missions wherever it is needed, and that's generating tremendous excitement within the Navy, Rowden said. He said the Zumwalt will be a "very stabilizing" sight for allies and partners, and perhaps a "menacing" sight for potential enemies.

Also, the Zumwalt's unique and significant capability to generate power could be used in ways perhaps not even envisioned yet, such as in the testing and use of laser and directed-energy weapons systems, Rowden said.

"We have the embodiment of the spirit of technological breakthroughs and the future of our Navy. I think we have the embodiment of Adm. Bud Zumwalt," Rowden said. "And I think as you combine those and many other things together, what you really see is tremendous, tremendous opportunity."

The ship is named after the late Adm. Elmo "Bud" Zumwalt, who earned the Bronze Star in World War II and commanded small boats that patrolled the Mekong Delta in Vietnam. He became the youngest chief of naval operations and earned a reputation as a reformer who fought racism and sexism.

Capt. James Kirk, the ship's commanding officer, has pictures of Zumwalt and books about him in his office. Kirk said that the ship's commissioning will bring the admiral's legacy as a reformer back into the fleet. He said the Zumwalt's crew of 147 officers and sailors possess a high level of technical expertise, great teamwork and mental and physical toughness.

Additional equipment will be installed on the ship in San Diego, and systems will be tested and the crew will train. Rowden said training and testing will last through 2017 and into 2018. He didn't speculate when the first deployment will happen.

Woman in Times Square V-J Day kiss photo dies

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The woman in an iconic photo shown kissing an ecstatic sailor in Times Square celebrating the end of World War II has died. Greta Zimmer Friedman was 92.

Friedman, who fled Austria during the war as a 15-year-old, died Thursday at a hospital in Richmond, Va., from complications of old age, said her son, Joshua Friedman.

Greta Friedman was a 21-year-old dental assistant in a nurse's uniform when she became part of one of the most famous photographs of the 20th century.

On Aug. 14, 1945, known as V-J Day, the day Japan surrendered to the U.S., people spilled into New York's streets, celebrating the news.

That's when George Mendonsa spotted Friedman, spun her around and planted a kiss. The two had never met. In fact, Mendonsa was on a date with an actual nurse, Rita Petry, who would later become his wife.

The photo by Alfred Eisenstaedt is called "V-J Day in Times Square," but is known to most simply as "The Kiss."

Hinckley released from mental hospital

WASHINGTON — John Hinckley Jr., who tried to assassinate President Ronald Reagan, has been released from a Washington mental hospital for good, more than 35 years after the shooting.

An Associated Press reporter saw a hired car pull into the driveway of the Hinckley home about 2:30 p.m. Officers from the Kingsmill (Va.) Police Department chased reporters away.

A federal judge ruled in late July that Hinckley, 61, is not a danger to himself or the public and can live full time at his mother's home in Williamsburg.

From The Associated Press

Expert: Therapy dropouts are top PTSD treatment problem

BY WYATT OLSON

Stars and Stripes

TRIPLER ARMY MEDICAL CENTER, Hawaii — Standing in front of an auditorium full of health care professionals, Dr. Charles Hoge described a handful of emerging strategies for treating post-traumatic stress disorder.

But at the end of his presentation, which was part of an annual health summit Thursday and Friday, Hoge declared that research is needed on how to get patients to stick with their therapy.

"I think treatment dropouts are still the most critical problem," said Hoge, a leading expert on PTSD and a senior scientist at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Maryland.

Trauma-focused therapies, during which patients undergo prolonged exposure to thoughts and memories associated with a traumatic event, are now widely used to treat PTSD in active-duty military, veteran and civilian patients, Hoge said.

"This is sort of the standard of care now for patients with PTSD, to utilize one of these types of treatments," he said. "They are very effective. About 70 percent, plus or minus, of people recover if they stay in the treatment. But there's a high percentage of people who drop out of the treatment."

A course of treatment generally lasts about 12 sessions, although that varies. In practice, however, less than 50 percent of people recover when they get care because, for one reason or another, some drop out.

"That may be because we're not presenting the material in a way that's comfortable to them," he said. "It might be because they decided to prioritize their job over getting care. Or they had child care concerns or transportation problems or felt that stigma was going to be a burden."

"It's an area where we need more research, to be sure."

The annual health summit, now in its fifth year, aims to share best practices and information on many topics among professionals in DOD, VA and civilian health care systems.

PTSD affects people across all of society, but the post-9/11 wars brought the condition to the forefront for those who served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Department of Veterans Affairs estimates PTSD affects 11 percent to 20 percent of veterans of those two conflicts. It's estimated to affect 30 percent of Vietnam War veterans.

People with PTSD may experience emotional numbness and loss of interest in things they used to enjoy. They can be easily startled, upset, irritated or act out aggressively. They often have trouble sleeping or getting to sleep.

Hoge said he and others in the PTSD treatment community have been challenged by a change several years ago in the definition of PTSD in the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. It lays out the characteristics or symptoms a patient must exhibit, and excludes some individuals who would have been determined to have PTSD under the previous definition.

"The problem with that is that we have 30 years of research using the original definition, including all of our treatment trials. We have effective treatments," Hoge said.

"We have not a single treatment trial using the new definition yet. The implication is that there may be people who we know treatment would be beneficial for but who are not receiving the diagnosis because of the new definition."

The new definition created a new group of people identified as having PTSD, but treatments for them have not been validated through trials, he said.

"The important thing, from my standpoint, is that we want to make sure people get the

treatment they need, and we want to give them the diagnoses that's going to support that treatment," he said.

The DOD and VA are using the new definition, but Hoge said he would not hesitate to diagnose someone as having PTSD under the old guidelines. He called that a "reasonable" approach, even if it "may not be what some of our policy experts want us to do."

The most successful trauma-focused therapies are those in which patients are exposed repetitively to the same cues that trigger their symptoms.

Hoge described this as "new learning that's being overlaid on the fear condition." The problem is that over time, this fear "extinction learning" sometimes degrades, and some patients return months or years after successful treatment.

An emerging area of research focuses on how to permanently change a conditioned fear response in the brain, he said.

Experiments have found that during certain points of successful therapy, a "reconsolidation window" exists during which memory can actually be changed, he said.

"When memory becomes activated, we know that within the next hour or two — maybe as much as five hours — that memory can be reconsolidated," he said.

One therapy that could be promising in such permanent change is accelerated resolution therapy, or ART, he said. During ART, patients bring up the traumatic experience in their mind, during which they typically feel it manifest somewhere in their body — gut, chest, head.

"There are techniques to help them alleviate the sensations they're having in their body, and once they have a more positive response in their body, then oftentimes they can go back to visualizing the traumatic experience without as much visceral response," he said.

Colombia rebels hand over 13 child soldiers as fighting ends

Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia — Colombia's largest rebel group has handed 13 child soldiers over to an international humanitarian mission as part of a deal to end decades of bloody fighting.

The International Red Cross said in a statement Saturday that the minors were in good health and were being transported to a temporary shelter under the supervision of the United Nations Children's Fund.

The humanitarian gesture comes in the wake of a deal reached last month between the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, and the government to end a half-century of hostilities.

The FARC has long faced accusations of violating human

rights norms by forcing minors to join its ranks. Between 1975 and 2014, almost 12,000 minors are believed to have been illegally recruited, Colombia's chief prosecutor says.

But as peace talks in Cuba advanced last year, the rebels announced they were raising the minimum age for recruits from 15 to 17, and in May, it agreed to let all guerrillas younger than 18 leave its jungle camps. The handover didn't materialize until now because of FARC leaders' concerns that the underage fighters would be interrogated by authorities in order to locate and attack rebel camps.

It's unclear how many of the FARC's estimated 7,000 guerrillas are minors. The chief rebel negotiator, known by his alias

Ivan Marquez, said in May that 21 soldiers younger than 15 live in guerrilla camps, but some government officials have put the number closer to 200.

A visit to a rebel camp last month by Associated Press journalists found several guerrillas who acknowledged joining the rebel group as children, some as young as 14. But all said they had done so of their own free will while fleeing poverty and domestic violence.

Authorities say more minors could be handed over before the FARC begins to demobilize as part of the peace deal. The government has vowed to reunite the children with their families when possible and to provide them with psychological assistance to ease their transition back to civilian life.

Muslims gather in Mecca for pilgrimage

Associated Press

MOUNT ARAFAT, Saudi Arabia — Before dawn on Sunday, Muslim pilgrims from around the world began ascending a hill just outside Mecca where it is believed the Prophet Muhammad delivered his final sermon some 1,400 years ago.

The day spent on Mount Arafat is the pinnacle of the five-day hajj pilgrimage, which all able-bodied Muslims are required to perform at least once. Muslims spend the day there in deep prayer, many openly weeping as they repent and ask God for forgiveness.

Many of the roughly 2 million pilgrims taking part in this year's hajj will climb a hill called Jabal al-Rahma, or mountain of mercy, in Arafat and spend time there in supplication. It was here where, Muslims believe, the Prophet Muhammad delivered his final sermon.

The day of Arafat is the one time during the hajj when roughly all pilgrims are in the same place at the same time. The sight of people from more than 160 different countries, with all the men dressed in simple white garments, is breathtaking.

Egyptian pilgrim Mahmoud Awny said the feeling of being in Arafat is "indescribable."

"All Muslims on Earth wish they could have been here today. Thanks to Allah for enabling me to be here," he said.

The hajj is a physically and emotionally exhausting experience, and this year, temperatures soared to 108 degrees Fahrenheit in Arafat. Volunteers passed out water, juice and umbrellas to shade pilgrims from the sun.

Around sunset, the pilgrims will head to an area called Muzdalifa, 5.5 miles west of Arafat. They spend the night there, most in the open air huddled near one another, and pick up pebbles along the way that will be used in a symbolic stoning of the devil in Mina.

Paris judge charges woman in 'terrorist commando' probe

Associated Press

PARIS — A judge handed preliminary charges on Saturday to a 29-year-old woman whom authorities suspect is part of a female "terrorist commando" in the service of the Islamic State group — one of five suspects in an aborted attack near Notre Dame Cathedral.

The discovery of an abandoned car early on Sept. 4 led investigators to the arrests of three more women and a man with links to two attacks this year in France claimed by the Islamic State group. France has been on tenterhooks with three attacks this year. The abandoned car, which had its license plates removed and its hazard lights flashing, was loaded with gas canisters. A frantic search was set in motion.

A woman identified by authorities as Ornella G. was the first to be arrested, on Tuesday with a companion at a highway stop near the southern city of Orange. Her companion was freed, the prosecutor's office said Saturday. But Paris prosecutor Francois Molins said Friday that Ornella G.'s fingerprints were found inside the car.

The judge charged Ornella G. with association with terrorists to commit attacks and attempted murder in an organized group linked to a terrorist enterprise and ordered her jailed, the prose-

cutor's office said.

On the heels of Ornella G.'s arrest, police traced the person linked to the car to a house in the Essonne region south of Paris and descended Thursday evening. A confrontation with three women outside ensued, including the daughter of the car's owner, Ines Madani, 19. She was shot in the leg as she lunged at a police officer with a knife — after another woman, Sarah H., 23, attacked and wounded a plain-clothes officer with a kitchen knife through the open window of his car, Molins said on Friday. The third woman, Amel S., 39, who lived at the house, also was arrested, along with her daughter, about to turn 16 but potentially implicated in the "terrorist project," according to the prosecutor. She was found in another Paris suburb.

Molins said the investigation has led to the dismantling of a "terrorist commando of young women" aligned with the Islamic State group.

Police found a handwritten pledge of allegiance to Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi inside Madani's purse. The note also stated that in answer to the call of the No. 2 Islamic State leader, killed in August, Abu Mohammed al-Adnani, "I attack you in your lands to mark your minds and terrorize you," Molins said.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Police: Mother hands off baby before fleeing

OH WARREN — Police in northeast Ohio said a woman suspected of having heroin in her purse crashed her car and then handed her 1-year-old son to a bystander before running from officers.

The Warren Tribune-Chronicle reported that Savanha Cofield, 20, was arrested Thursday. She pleaded not guilty Friday in Warren Municipal Court to resisting arrest, child endangerment, obstructing official business and falsification charges. She was assigned a public defender and was released on bond. A county children's services agency has taken custody of the baby.

Warren police said that after finding a crashed car Thursday, they tried to question a woman walking away with a baby in her arms. Police said she gave officers a false name, gave her son to a bystander and tried to flee.

Retired deputy charged with hit and run, perjury

WA PORT ORCHARD — A Kitsap County sheriff's deputy who retired last month amid an investigation into an off-duty car crash in Silverdale has been charged with second-degree perjury.

The Kitsap Sun reported that Kenneth Mahler, 62, also was charged Thursday with hit and run of an unattended vehicle.

The perjury charge comes after a surveillance vehicle showed him in the parking lot where the crash occurred after he signed a statement claiming he was not there. The Washington State Patrol began investigating Mahler after a person called 911 to report that their vehicle had been hit by another vehicle in a parking lot. The caller provided a license plate number and a description of the vehicle, and a search de-

termined it was registered to Mahler.

Fire in Batman bounce house damages facility

MD FOREST HILL — Authorities say a fire in a unit at a bounce house play center heavily damaged the center in Harford County.

The State Fire Marshal's Office said in a news release that on Friday afternoon, a customer at the Jump on It Fun Center in Forest Hill saw smoke and flames coming from the blower of a Batman bounce house. Officials said about 25 customers left safely.

An employee shut off electricity to other houses and tents in the facility, causing the bounce houses to deflate, which fire officials said helped contain the fire.

It took firefighters about 45 minutes to bring the blaze under control. No one was hurt.

The Fire Marshal's Office estimated damage to be \$450,000. Officials said the fire was caused by a mechanical failure of the blower.

Man arrested in theft of \$600 from woman, 93

NY NEW YORK — New York City police have arrested a man on suspicion of stealing \$600 from an elderly woman's bra as she sat in a wheelchair.

Police charged Broyoan Lopez, 26, of Brooklyn, with robbery, grand larceny and criminal possession of stolen property. The theft happened last Wednesday in East Harlem; Lopez was arrested Friday.

Police said the woman, 93, had taken the money out of the bank for her rent and had put it into an envelope, which she put inside her blouse.

They said the suspect, who had observed her, followed her

to a clothing store, where she was shopping with her health aide.

Police said Lopez approached her from behind, grabbed the envelope and fled. The incident was caught on video.

Man charged in attack on woman at taco truck

CA LOS ANGELES — A man accused of randomly attacking a woman with a knife as she ate a taco in East Los Angeles has been charged with attempted murder.

Andres Contreras, 29, also was charged Friday with kidnapping and assault with a deadly weapon.

Los Angeles County sheriff's Detective Jacob Sanchez said the woman, 23, was at a taco truck Wednesday night when Contreras violently dragged her down the street and began stabbing her with a 3-inch-long folding knife.

He said a stranger intervened and suffered a wound to the chest that wasn't life-threatening. Nearby deputies arrived, and Contreras dropped the knife and was arrested. Lt. Alex Salinas said Contreras admitted to using methamphetamine all day.

The woman survived multiple wounds to her legs and arms.

Officials ask hunters to spare collared bears

VT SEARSBURG — The Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife is urging bear hunters to spare any bears they spot with radio collars and yellow ear tags.

About a dozen bears were collared as part of an ongoing study on the effects of a proposed wind energy development within Green Mountain National Forest in the towns of Searsburg and Readsboro.

The bear study is designed

to determine how the construction and operation of the wind turbines affects local bear populations. The wind energy proposal is the first located in a national forest, and the study will help inform future wind energy developments proposed in bear habitats.

Dozens of birds fall from sky; cause sought

MA BOSTON — Health officials are trying to figure out what caused dozens of birds to fall out of the sky onto a Boston neighborhood.

City officials said 47 grackles were found Thursday in the city's Dorchester neighborhood.

Thirty-five of those birds are now dead. A dozen died before rescuers arrived, others were found thrashing in the street and were later euthanized or died on the way to the shelter.

The Animal Rescue League of Boston said it went to the neighborhood after residents reported birds falling from the sky. The group is warning people to keep their pets away after it was unable to rescue a cat that also fell ill and has died.

The birds that died were sent for testing to Tufts University's wildlife clinic.

Study: Don't believe 5-second rule for food

NJ NEW BRUNSWICK — It might be time to reconsider the five-second rule when thinking about eating food that has fallen on the floor.

Researchers at Rutgers University in New Jersey say in a new study that bacteria can instantaneously contaminate food that falls onto the floor.

The findings were published this month in the American Society for Microbiology's journal.

From wire reports

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Refs' error costly for Oklahoma State

Associated Press

STILLWATER, Okla. — The officiating mistake was a doozy — and it cannot be fixed. The play that followed was even more astonishing.

One of the oddest endings imaginable left Oklahoma State stunned and Central Michigan celebrating.

A misinterpreted rule extended the game when it should have been over and allowed the Chippewas to score a wild, winning touchdown on a Hail Mary and lateral that covered half the field for a 30-27 upset of No. 22 Oklahoma State on Saturday.

Oklahoma State (1-1) tried to kill the final 4 seconds of the game by throwing the ball away on fourth down, but the Cowboys were penalized for intentional grounding, which

is a loss-of-down penalty. Rules state that the game cannot end on an accepted live-ball penalty, said referee Tim O'Dey of the Mid-American Conference, CMU's league.

He later admitted there is a situation where the game can end on an infraction.

"There's an exception to the rule that says if enforcement of the foul involves a loss of down, then that brings the game to an end," O'Dey told a pool reporter.

O'Dey said after conferring with NCAA rules committee secretary Rogers Redding after the game, the crew determined the "extension should not have happened."

But the final result stood. Article 3b of the NCAA rulebook states: When the referee declares that the game is ended, the score is final.

"Despite the error, this will not change the outcome of the contest," Bill Carollo, the NCAA's coordinator of football officials, said in a statement.

That did not satisfy Oklahoma State athletic director Mike Holder.

"We had conversations with everyone that could help us understand the situation and do something about the outcome. We were told the result is final and there is nothing we can do about it," Holder said in a statement. "In my mind, it is incomprehensible that a misapplication of the rules after time has expired can't be corrected."

Corey Willis scored the winning touchdown after grabbing a lateral from Jesse Kroll at the Oklahoma State 12 and fighting his way into the end zone.

Arkansas gets past No. 15 TCU in double OT

Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Austin Allen ran 5 yards for the winning score in the second overtime, and Arkansas pulled out a wild 41-38 victory over No. 15 TCU on Saturday night.

Allen led the Razorbacks (2-0) to the tying score in the final 2 minutes of regulation, throwing a touchdown pass to Keon Hatcher and then catching the tying 2-point conversion from the receiver with 1:03 remaining.

The Horned Frogs (1-1) rallied from 13 down in the fourth quarter to take a 28-20 lead, but couldn't hang on as their 14-game home winning streak ended in the first meeting of these former Southwest Conference rivals since 1991. That was the year before Arkansas started play in the SEC.

Allen threw three touchdown passes, including a 19-yarder to Jeremy Sprinkle to start overtime.

"We wanted to keep you in your seats for four quarters and some," Arkansas coach Bret Bielema said with a smile as he greeted reporters. "For college football, this is everything you could ask for."

No. 9 Georgia 26, Nicholls 24: Georgia scored two quick-strike touchdowns — one on offense, one on defense — in a span of about two minutes after

Nicholls took a third-quarter lead. Georgia (2-0) opened the game with a fast touchdown drive capped by Nick Chubb's 6-yard run and appeared headed for the easy win.

No. 1 Alabama 38, Western Kentucky 10: Freshman Jalen Hurts passed for 287 yards and two touchdowns in his first career start to lead host Alabama past Western Kentucky.

No. 2 Clemson 30, Troy 24: Deshaun Watson threw three touchdown passes and Clemson avoided a host of mistakes — including an embarrassing early celebration punt-return gaffe by Ray-Ray McCloud that cost the host Tigers a touchdown — to hold off pesky Troy.

No. 3 Florida State 52, Charleston Southern 8: Deondre Francois threw three touchdown passes and Dalvin Cook ran for two more score in host Florida State's victory.

No. 4 Ohio State 48, Tulsa 3: Ohio State overcame a sluggish offensive start, a lightning delay and a driving rainstorm in the second half to beat visiting Tulsa.

No. 5 Michigan 51, UCF 14: Wilton Speight threw two of his four touchdown passes to Jake Butt, and Khalid Hill ran for two scores in Michigan's victory over Central Florida.

No. 6 Houston 42, Lamar 0: Host Houston easily overcame

the absence of injured quarterback Greg Ward Jr. and a 3 1/2-hour lightning delay.

No. 8 Washington 59, Idaho 14: Jake Browning matched Washington's school record with five touchdown passes — two each to Dante Pettis and John Ross — and finished with 294 yards in the host Huskies' victory over Idaho.

No. 10 Wisconsin 54, Akron 10: Corey Clement ran for two scores before leaving with an injury, Jazz Peavy had two touchdown catches and host Wisconsin stuffed Akron's spread offense.

No. 11 Texas 41, UTEP 7: Freshman quarterback Shane Buechele passed for 244 yards and four touchdowns and host Texas backed up its first national ranking since 2013.

No. 14 Oklahoma 59, Louisiana-monroe 17: Baker Mayfield passed for 244 yards and three touchdowns in a half of work and host Oklahoma won a warmup for its showdown with Ohio State.

No. 16 Iowa 42, Iowa State 3: C.J. Beathard threw for 235 yards and three touchdowns and Iowa throttled Iowa State for its biggest win over the rival Cyclones in 18 seasons under coach Kirk Ferentz.

No. 17 Tennessee 45, Virginia Tech 24: Joshua Dobbs threw three touchdown passes

and ran for two more scores and Tennessee overcame an early 14-point deficit to beat Virginia Tech in front of an NCAA-record crowd of 156,990 at Bristol Motor Speedway.

No. 18 Notre Dame 39, Nevada 10: DeShone Kizer threw two touchdown passes and ran for another score, Josh Adams rushed for 106 yards and host Notre Dame's defense rebounded from a disappointing performance a week ago.

No. 19 Mississippi 38, Wofford 13: Chad Kelly threw for 219 yards and three touchdowns to lead host Mississippi.

No. 20 Texas A&M 67, Prairie View A&M 0: Trevor Knight threw for 344 yards and three touchdowns and ran for another score in host Texas A&M's romp over Prairie View.

No. 23 Baylor 40, SMU 13: Seth Russell threw for 261 yards and two touchdowns and ran for another score, and Baylor recovered from a slow start to rout visiting SMU.

No. 24 Oregon 44, Virginia 26: Dakota Prukop threw for 331 yards and three touchdowns, Royce Freeman ran for 207 yards and two scores, and host Oregon beat Virginia.

No. 25 Miami 38, Florida Atlantic 10: Mark Walton ran for 155 yards and four touchdowns, and Miami shook off a slow start to beat Florida Atlantic.

Hamlin wins season finale as Chase title field is set

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — It was yet another Denny Hamlin run-away for Joe Gibbs Racing on Saturday night in what turned out to be an anticlimactic end to NASCAR's regular season.

The fireworks came off the track at Richmond International Raceway, where Tony Stewart intentionally wrecked Ryan Newman before Newman angrily chided his former boss for the accident that officially ended Newman's chances to make the playoffs.

The verbal beat down from Newman came with 37 laps left, before Hamlin finished off his third career Sprint Cup win at his home track while giving JGR its third consecutive victory at the track and ninth in the last 15 races.

Newman called Stewart "bipolar," said the retiring race

car driver had anger issues, and all but outright referenced the 2014 incident in which Stewart fatally struck a sprint car driver.

"I guess he thought he was in a sprint car again and didn't know how to control his anger," Newman said after the two made contact three times before finally wrecking. Dylan Lupton couldn't avoid the accident and his car ended up wedged between the wall and on top of Newman's car when the crashing finally ceased.

Stewart admitted to wrecking Newman.

"He's right, that was the third time he had driven into me. How many times is he supposed to hit you before you say, 'I've had enough of it?'" Stewart said.

Stewart, who last week intentionally wrecked Brian Scott, is

retiring at the end of the season and already had his spot in the Chase secure headed into Richmond.

The remaining playoff positions in the 16-driver field went to rookie Chase Elliott, Austin Dillon and Jamie McMurray. Chris Buescher also made the Chase by virtue of his win at a rain-shortened race and by maintaining a spot in the top 30 in points.

The rest of the Chase field is made up of the other 12 race winners this season.

Up next: The opening race in the Chase for the Sprint Cup championship on Sunday at Chicagoland Speedway. The field starts with 16 drivers, which will be whittled down over nine rounds to create a final four to race for the title Nov. 20 at Homestead-Miami Speedway.

Kerber claims Open title, No. 1 spot

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Early in what would become a tight test of a U.S. Open final, Angelique Kerber sprinted forward to somehow reach a drop shot and scoop a down-the-line winner to a corner.

The Arthur Ashe Stadium crowd roared, and Kerber celebrated by raising her right hand and wagging her index finger in the air, as if to remind opponent Karolina Pliskova — and everyone else — "I'm No. 1!"

Yes, she is. And a two-time Grand Slam champion, too.

Kerber won her first U.S. Open title and the second major trophy of her out-of-nowhere breakthrough season, taking five of the last six games to beat a fading Pliskova 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 on Saturday.

Never a Grand Slam finalist before 2016, Kerber beat Williams for the Australian Open title in January, then lost to her in the Wimbledon final in July.

On Saturday, the No. 2-seeded Kerber trailed by a break at 3-1 in the third set before coming back against Pliskova, a 24-year-old Czech who was seeded 10th and hadn't been past the third round at a major until this tournament.

Kerber, who collected \$3.5 million in prize money Saturday, lost to Pliskova the last time they met, just three weeks ago in the final of a hard-court tournament in Cincinnati.

As she does against most opponents, Kerber would make Pliskova swing two, three, four extra times to try to end a point. And Pliskova was troubled by that in the early going, making 17 unforced errors in the first set alone, 14 more than Kerber. By the conclusion of the 2-hour, 7-minute final, Pliskova totaled 47 unforced errors, 30 more than Kerber.

UFC champ Miocic keeps title with KO

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Stipe Miocic climbed to the top of the octagon and threw his legs over its sides, straddling the cage like he was riding a horse.

He had defended his title in stunning fashion, and Cleveland's hometown hero has no plans to give it up.

"I'm going to stay champ for a long time," he said.

Floored by an early punch, Miocic recovered and knocked out Alistair Overeem at 4:27 of the first round to conclude UFC 203 on Saturday night in front of nearly 20,000 delirious fans.

Miocic, whose title in May set off a run of championships in a city that didn't celebrate one for 52 years, was in big trouble after Overeem caught him on the jaw with a short left. Overeem pounced on Miocic, a Cleveland firefighter, and put him in a guillotine hold as he tried to choke him out. But the 6-foot-4, 240-pound Miocic escaped the hold and quickly pressed the action.

In the final minute of the round, Miocic stunned Overeem with a punch and then held him down and delivered four devastating right-handed punches to the challenger's head to finish him off.

ish him off.

When the fight was stopped, Miocic ran and climbed the cage, a move he had planned for months. Soon after, he took the microphone and yelled "O-H" to the crowd, which responded "I-0," to the local champ, whose knock out of Fabricio Werdum this spring was followed by the Cavaliers overcoming a 3-1 deficit to beat Golden State in the NBA Finals.

Before Miocic's stunning comeback, former WWE superstar CM Punk could have used a folding chair or a tag-team partner.

Punk, who was one of WWE's biggest stars when he left it two years ago to try his hand in ultimate fighting, tapped out just 2:14 into the first round after he was pummeled and choked by welterweight Mickey Gall.

The 38-year-old Punk charged Gall but was on his back less than 10 seconds into the fight. Pinned up against the fencing, he was unable to get out from under Gall, who smashed a right hand into Punk's temple and then knelt on top of him and swung both arms like a pendulum, connecting with one hard shot after another.

Prior to Miocic's bout, former heavyweight champ Fabricio Werdum won a unanimous decision over Travis Browne.

Sanchez, Tanaka lead Yanks past Rays

BY BEN WALKER
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Even when a pitcher tried to walk him on purpose, Gary Sanchez almost hit a home run.

That's how good things are for the rookie — and his team, too.

Sanchez homered and nearly launched another as Tampa Bay messed up an intentional walk, leading the hard-charging Yankees to their season-best seventh straight win, 5-1 over the Rays on Saturday.

"The guys feel really good about themselves," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said.

No wonder, with how they're playing and moving up in the playoff race.

The Yankees closed within three games of AL East-leading Boston, their closest to the lead since mid-April, and remained one game behind Baltimore for the second wild-card spot. The Orioles beat Detroit 11-3, leaving the Tigers with the same record as the Yankees.

Masahiro Tanaka (13-4) struck out 10 and took a shutout into the eighth inning. Chris Archer (8-18) tied the Tampa Bay record for losses in a season, set by Tanyon Sturtze in 2002.

It was scoreless in the sixth when Jacoby Ellsbury hit a two-run homer and Sanchez followed with a long drive.

In the eighth, after Ellsbury's double put runners on second and third with no outs, the Rays seemed set to walk Sanchez.

"I knew they were going to walk me," Sanchez said through a translator. "At the same time, I wanted to be ready."

In case, maybe, a soft toss floated near the strike zone.

"It's not something pitchers are always doing a lot and comfortable," Girardi said.

He was right.

Catcher Bobby Wilson moved wide as reliever Eddy Rosario lobbed in his first pitch at 52 mph, but the ball drifted close to the plate. Alertly, Sanchez socked it to the warning track in deep center field for a sacrifice fly.

"Yeah, I know I was supposed to throw a base on balls on four pitches, intentional walk," Romero said.

Romero said his hand was sweaty and the ball started to slip. But, he said, "I can't stop because if I stop it's a balk."

From the dugout, Rays manager Kevin Cash seemed to say, "What happened?"

While some officials in Major League Baseball have proposed making intentional walks an automatic affair — just wave the batter to first base without a pitch — things like this are bound to keep people talking.

Up to a point, that is.

"As far as the eighth inning is concerned, I'm not really going to talk about it other than to say it's embarrassing," Cash said. "That's embarrassing, but we're not going to talk about it any farther than that."

Sanchez connected for the second

straight day, giving the 23-year-old catcher 13 home runs in 125 at-bats this season.

Tanaka won his sixth straight decision, giving up five hits and walking none. He left in the eighth after Bobby Wilson homered with one out and Logan Forsythe was hit by a pitch.

An All-Star last year, Archer leads the majors in the losses this season — James Shields, who has lost 17 with the Padres and White Sox, pitched Saturday night.

Archer fanned six and tops the AL with 217 strikeouts. Nolan Ryan is the only AL pitcher to ever lead the league in losses and strikeouts, doing it in 1976 with the Angels.

Target tagged: Ellsbury picked on a familiar victim when he lined his eighth home run, a shot into the right-center field seats. Ellsbury is 19 for 34 (.559) with two homers against Archer, the most hits by anyone off the right-hander.

"Sometimes, it just happens," Girardi said. "You wonder why one guy sees another guy so well."

Said Archer: "A lot of that is in the past." "I'm sure if we looked at the numbers from this year, and if we looked at the quality of contact and not just a traditional batting average, give us a much better depiction of how he's been against me recently. You know he's a veteran hitter, I left a cookie out there for him and he capitalized," he said.

Hill tosses seven perfect innings in Dodgers' win

Associated Press

MIAMI — Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Rich Hill was removed after throwing seven perfect innings against the Miami Marlins in a 5-0 win on Saturday night.

Hill (3-0) had thrown 89 pitches and struck out nine when first-year manager Dave Roberts replaced the 35-year-old left-hander with Joe Blanton at the start of the eighth inning.

Blanton struck out Christian Yelich and retired Marcell Ozuna on a groundout before Jeff Francoeur singled to left. Grant Dayton gave up Dee Gordon's two-out infield hit in the ninth that put two on, and Kenley Jansen retired Martin Prado on a groundout to complete the two-hitter.

Braves 4, Mets 3 (10):

Adonis Garcia's tiebreaking single in the 10th inning drove in Dansby Swanson, and Atlanta snapped visiting New York's six-game winning streak.

Nationals 3, Phillies 0: Bryce Harper hit a three-run homer in the eighth inning, lifting host Washington to the win.

Cardinals 5, Brewers 1: Randal Grichuk made two key plays for host St. Louis and Adam Wainwright pitched eight strong innings.

Blue Jays 3, Red Sox 2: J.A. Happ got his 18th win, Melvin Upton Jr. hit a two-run homer and host Toronto pulled within one game of AL East-leading Boston.

Toronto stopped a four-game losing streak and avoided matching its longest skid this season.

Astros 2, Cubs 1: Rookie Alex Bregman homered and Collin McHugh pitched five effective innings, leading host Houston to the victory.

Mariners 14, Athletics 3: Seattle ace Felix Hernandez pitched six scoreless innings to continue his dominance at the Oakland Coliseum.

Royals 6, White Sox 5: Whit Merrifield hit a two-run double in Kansas City's three-run seventh inning, and Kansas City held on for the road win.

Twins 2, Indians 1 (12): Joe Mauer's single off Joe Colon scored Brian Dozier from second in the 12th inning, lifting host Minnesota to the win.

Giants 11, Diamondbacks 3: Hunter Pence had three hits, including a solo homer, and Johnny Cueto pitched seven solid innings to lead San Fran-

cisco to the road victory.

Padres 6, Rockies 3: Christian Friedrich matched his career high with 10 strikeouts in seven brilliant innings, leading San Diego to a victory over visiting Colorado.

Orioles 11, Tigers 3: Matt Wieters hit two of visiting Baltimore's four home runs, and the Orioles chased Jordan Zimmermann in the second inning and moved back ahead of Detroit in the AL wild-card race.

Reds 8, Pirates 7: At Pittsburgh, Cincinnati star Joey Votto celebrated his 33rd birthday with four hits, including a home run.

Rangers 8, Angels 5: Jonathan Lucroy hit a two-run homer in the eighth to power visiting Texas to the win.