

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Report: Too-heavy troops a rising concern

BY ERIK SLAVIN

*Stars and Stripes*

The proportion of overweight and obese servicemembers rose 73 percent over five years across all age groups, according to the Defense Health Agency's latest monthly report.

Health care providers diagnosed 7.8 percent of the Defense Department's active-duty forces as overweight or obese in 2015, the report said.

In 2011, 4.5 percent of the force was diagnosed as overweight or obese.

The report cautioned that the increase could be the result of

more clinical providers diagnosing weight gain as a medical problem, though it could not rule out greater prevalence of overweight servicemembers.

The report relied on provider-assigned diagnoses, rather than actual height and weight measurements.

"The results of this analysis suggest that continued emphasis on improving 'nutritional fitness' as well as physical fitness should continue as a priority of military medical and line leaders at every level," the report said.

Older servicemembers were

more likely to be at least overweight, with 12 percent of those ages 40 and older diagnosed as such, compared with 7.1 percent in 2011.

Among servicemembers ages 20-24, 5.6 percent were at least overweight, compared with 3.4 percent in 2011.

Servicemembers in military combat specialties reported an overweight or obese rate of 6.7 percent in 2015, compared with 3.4 percent in 2011, the year of the troop drawdown in Iraq.

The military's overweight and obesity rates remain well below the general U.S. popula-

tion, according to several government studies.

The National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey reported that 32 percent of men and 37 percent of women ages 20-39 were overweight or obese.

"The increase in obesity in the general population has resulted in ... [an] increase in the number of applicants for military service who are overweight and obese and at risk of being deemed 'medically unfit for service,'" the report said.

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## Refunds coming for duplicate MWR charges

BY ERIK SLAVIN

*Stars and Stripes*

Senior Chief Petty Officer Tracey Griffin's alert that the Navy had made a big financial mistake came this week when her husband contacted her from aboard the USS John S. McCain as it pulled into Da Nang, Vietnam.

Why, he asked, didn't they have any money?

Griffin, now stationed at Naval Station Norfolk, Va., called her banks and found \$3,800 in duplicated charges spread across three accounts.

The Griffins are among thousands of families wrongly charged a second time for goods and services they bought at Navy Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities and youth programs between Jan. 22 and June 23.

Navy officials on Wednesday said the duplicate charges were spotted after a computer system update this past week-

end, and that refunds would be issued within two days.

"It's definitely not ideal, but we'll make it work," Griffin said. "It actually was a really big nightmare. We had a mortgage payment come out at the same time."

The duplicate charges came at child care centers, tour ticket offices and a variety of base stores in Japan, Guam, South Korea and Singapore and at the Naval Postgraduate School in California.

However, the Navy's transient nature means many of those affected have since moved on and may not have the same bank accounts as they did in January.

"The number of charges in our region alone is in the thousands," Navy Region Japan spokesman Cmdr. Ron Flanders said Thursday. "People as far away as Jacksonville, Fla., are getting bills from MWR Japan."

The Navy duplicated 133,000

charges worth \$5.3 million, said Dan Kondziela, support services director for Navy Installations Command, according to Navy Times.

Those affected are being told to wait for the refunds to go through before making further claims. However, it appeared Thursday evening that some of the initial refunds haven't been made correctly.

"Some of the accounts that have been refunded have seen duplication of the reimbursement, which has resulted in over-compensation," Capt. Hans Sholley, commander of Naval Base Guam, wrote on the base's Facebook page. "This compounds the issue by necessitating ... additional withdrawals to reconcile the accounting."

In the meantime, the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society is offering assistance to servicemembers, dependents or retirees with emergency needs.

The society can issue a no-

interest, \$500 loan upon approval within 15 minutes, said Christina Sexstella, relief services assistant at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan.

The society has received calls and interest but hasn't seen a rush for help so far, she said.

However, sailors said Thursday that need could increase if refunds take longer than anticipated.

"It's a lot harder on the junior sailors," said Chief Petty Officer Gregory Nelson. "You have sailors who depend on that steady paycheck."

Nelson had just walked out of Community Bank on Thursday where he notified staff about \$260 in duplicate charges.

He suggested that the Navy could issue refunds and then seek reimbursement from financial institutions, rather than leave sailors and their families waiting.

# Debate rages over sailor's anthem snub

The Washington Post

The U.S. Navy says it is investigating a sailor who did not salute as the national anthem played during a flag-raising ceremony at Pearl Harbor this month.

On Sept. 19, Petty Officer 2nd Class Janaye Ervin reportedly refused to salute during "morning colors," a daily 8 a.m. raising of the flag, a Navy spokesman said.

It will be up to Ervin's commander to decide whether the sailor faces any punishment, U.S. Pacific Fleet spokesman Lt. Clint Ramsden told The Washington Post on Wednesday.

To his knowledge, Ramsden said, it was the first time a sailor in the Pacific Fleet had refused to salute during the national anthem.

The Navy protocol handbook states that a sailor in uniform must salute when the national anthem is played, from the first note of the anthem until the last. Sailors are supposed to face the flag or, if the flag is not displayed, the source of the music.

Ervin's protest is at least the second time in the past month that an American sailor has protested the national anthem. In late August, an unidentified sailor filmed herself refusing to stand for "morning colors," according to Military.com.

The Navy confirmed to Military.com that it was aware of the August video and that the sailor was expected to be allowed to continue training at her assigned Naval Air Technical Training Center in Pensacola, Fla.

Late Tuesday, Ervin shared a 1966 photo on Facebook that showed Martin Luther King Jr. falling after someone in an angry mob hit him with a rock in Chicago.

"They're always telling us to be peaceful like Dr. King," read the text that accompanied the photo. "This is how they treated Dr. King, when he marched 'peacefully' advocating 'non-violence.'"

Ervin also shared a Change.org petition titled "Keep Black

**'Do not allow her to be punished by jail time and a dishonorable discharge for what she truly believes in.'**

**Brandon Akins**

from his petition in support of Petty Officer 2nd Class Janaye Ervin

Soldiers Out of Jail For Choosing not to Stand for National Anthem."

The petition, started by a Raeford, N.C., man named Brandon Akins, detailed Ervin's situation and stated that she was finishing up a master's degree in medical science in the hope of becoming a doctor.

"She has served her family, friends, fellow midshipmen and the nation with class and dignity," Akins wrote. "A couple of days ago, she made the clear choice in full uniform to not stand while the Star Spangled Banner played."

The consequences of Ervin's actions were immediate, Akins said in the petition:

"After this, her security clearance was taken away, [she was] talked to like trash from military personnel and civilians, received threats from many people, and is in danger of going to jail. Now, we are standing with her during this time [and she] needs your help if possible to not allow her go to jail and receiving a dishonorable discharge. Intervene, if you will."

Akins continued in the petition: "[Ervin] admits she loves her country and will fight for it at all cost. However, she states that 'her patriotism should not be defined by her refusing to stand for the national anthem as the land she is fighting for is discriminatory towards people that look like her.' She is a black woman who has to constantly [witness] what minorities deal with while she is in uniform."

"The Navy has also taken her equipment that she needs to do the job that she has done for all of this time.

"We fully understand that military law is different than

civil law. But this is no reason to possibly have her jailed, dishonorably discharged, security clearance revoked and her uniform taken away so she can not serve her country.

"We are doing everything in our power to help this young lady [and] will gladly appreciate an immediate intervention of what stands against her currently. Do not allow her to be punished by jail time and a dishonorable discharge for what she truly believes in."

Akins could not be reached for comment.

The petition is directed toward 27 people or agencies, including the Department of Defense, President Barack Obama, presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, Oprah Winfrey and a handful of media outlets. As of Thursday morning, the petition had 352 supporters.

The response to Ervin's actions has been polarized. On Tuesday, a Facebook group called "Hold Janaye Ervin Accountable" popped up, saying that Ervin brought "a great discredit to the U.S. Navy and the United States" when she "willingly failed to rendered required customs and courtesies" to the flag.

Dozens of people have left irate comments on Ervin's own Facebook page, some laced with obscenities and the n-word.

"Dishonorable discharge is all you deserve now from this country," one person wrote before calling her a string of profane words and disparaging her as "another uneducated black person."

Others supported Ervin or were more measured in their criticism.

"Freedom of speech is every

American's right. That includes protesting," another person commented. "However, I took that oath twice and wore the same rank as Ms. Ervin. I feel it is her 'duty' to stand during the anthem, only because of the oath she swore. If she can no longer honor that, she should ask for a hardship discharge."

The broader controversy surfaced Wednesday on an Army base in Virginia, where Obama was asked by a member of the military about those who "have been choosing to take a knee during the national anthem, a time which I believe should be reserved to respect our servicemembers."

"I believe that us honoring our flag and our anthem is part of what binds us together as a nation," Obama said during the town hall at Fort Lee, noting that he recognized "what it means to the men and women who are fighting on our behalf. ... But I also always try to remind folks that part of what makes this country special is that we respect people's rights to have a different opinion. And to make different decisions about how they want to express their concerns."

Addressing an audience filled with military personnel and veterans, the president urged "everybody to listen to each other," saying: "I want [San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin] Kaepernick and others who are on a knee, I want them to listen to the pain that that may cause somebody who, for example, had a spouse or a child who was killed in combat, and why it hurts them to see somebody not standing. But I also want people to think about the pain he may be expressing about somebody who's lost a loved one that they think was unfairly shot."

He added: "I do hope that anybody who's trying to express any political view of any sort understands that they do so under the blanket of the protection of our men and women in uniform, and that that appreciation of that sacrifice is never lost."

## Obama addresses concerns of vets, servicemembers

From wire reports

FORT LEE, Va. — Military personnel and veterans challenged President Barack Obama, often aggressively, on his refusal to use the phrase “Islamic terrorism,” his decision to open combat jobs up to women and the performance of the Department of Veterans Affairs at a town hall meeting here Wednesday.

Obama was at this Army post near Richmond to take part in a military-focused special that aired Wednesday night on CNN. The cable network selected questioners who were respectful but who reflected a military population that is more conservative than the population as a whole and generally skeptical of the president’s performance as commander in chief.

Obama’s appearance came on the same day he announced that he was sending 600 more troops to Iraq, a war that the president thought he had ended when he withdrew U.S. forces from the country in late 2011. The additional forces will boost the number of U.S. troops in Iraq to just more than 5,000, ahead of an Iraqi-led offensive on Mosul planned for the coming weeks.

Obama emphasized that Iraqi forces would do the vast majority of the fighting, while U.S. troops would provide air sup-

port, logistical help and advice. “They are engaging in a fight that is dangerous,” Obama said of the U.S. troops in Iraq. “We are grateful for their sacrifice, and I never forget it.”

At a time of deep political polarization in the United States, White House officials have sought to use the town hall format to put the president in front of audiences that disagree with him.

The latest CNN town hall followed that pattern from the opening question, in which an Army chaplain asked Obama why there had been “a substantial increase in terror attacks around the world” since he took office.

Obama challenged the premise, saying that the number of terrorist attacks worldwide had not “substantially increased,” despite some recent high-profile attacks in the Middle East and Europe.

A mother whose 19-year-old son was killed in Baghdad in 2007 pressed Obama more directly on the subject, asking him, “Why do you still refuse to use the term ‘Islamic terrorism?’” Obama countered that he did not want to conflate murderous terrorists with “the billion Muslims ... who are peaceful, who are responsible, who in this country are our fellow troops.”

## Duterte: War games with US to be the last

BY SETH ROBSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

The new Philippine president appeared to drive a wedge into relations with Washington even more deeply by announcing that bilateral war games on the islands starting next week will be “the last” and vowing to pursue trade alliances with China and Russia.

During a speech Wednesday in Vietnam, Rodrigo Duterte said he would maintain the military alliance with the U.S. because of the countries’ 1951 defense treaty, but that the Philippines is only going forward with the PHIBLEX exercise because he doesn’t want to embarrass his defense secretary, The Associated Press reported.

“I would serve notice to you now that this will be the last military exercise,” he said. “Jointly, Philippines-U.S., the last one.”

With a reputation as a tough-talking maverick, Duterte often seems to speak and act before he thinks, generating public admiration for bluntly — and often profanely — telling the U.S. and other world powers to butt out of his brutal war on drugs while leaving his spokesman and Cabinet ministers to clean up the

messes he leaves behind.

His statements on relations with Washington have raised questions whether he might scrap an agreement signed last month to allow U.S. forces to use bases in the Philippines and cozy up to China, instead.

Earlier this month, Duterte called for U.S. special operators assisting in the archipelago’s fight against Islamic extremist to leave Mindanao island, and said he won’t allow his navy to conduct joint patrols with foreign powers near the South China Sea, apparently scrapping an agreement his predecessor reached with the U.S. before Duterte took office June 30.

Marine Corps spokesman Maj. Roger Hollenbeck said Thursday that Duterte’s comments haven’t affected U.S. preparations for PHIBLEX, which will bring 1,400 U.S. troops to the islands to train alongside 500 of their Philippine counterparts.

Marines and sailors from the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade and the Bonhomme Richard Expeditionary Strike Group are participating in the drills, according to a statement from the U.S. Embassy in Manila.

## Pentagon puts brakes on deep cuts at Army MWR

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN  
*Stars and Stripes*

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany—Steep reductions to Army Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs that were to begin next week are on hold, pending a top-level review prompted by a Pentagon official’s concern that the funding cuts may be too deep.

“The Army has decided not to reduce appropriated fund support to Morale, Welfare and Recreation activities until it has completed a thorough and comprehensive analysis,” Defense Department spokesman Eric Pahon said in a statement this week.

The Army announced in late August that military personnel and families would see changes in services provided by MWR

programs starting in October because of budget cuts. Those cuts were a result of an Army decision to reduce appropriated funding — taxpayer dollars earmarked by Congress — to MWR activities by \$105 million, or about 23 percent.

But those plans were abruptly, and quietly, put on hold after Todd Weiler, the assistant secretary of defense for manpower and reserve affairs, questioned the extent of the MWR cutbacks in a memorandum that Stars and Stripes has obtained.

“Given the level of Administration interest in programs impacting military family quality of life, I strongly suggest that the Army delay any reductions until you brief me on their necessity and on your actions to mitigate the adverse impact on the military community,” Weiler wrote on Sept. 9

to the assistant secretary of the Army for manpower and reserve affairs.

An MWR employee in Europe concerned about the pending cuts forwarded the memorandum to Stars and Stripes this week after receiving it from a supervisor. Defense Department officials confirmed the memorandum came from Weiler’s office.

Pahon, the DOD spokesman, said that since Weiler issued his memo to the Army, Weiler and Secretary of the Army Eric Fanning “have worked in lockstep to ensure any impact to military families is mitigated.”

The department “is pleased with the fast and thorough review Secretary Fanning has initiated and intends to support the Army however possible to bring this situation to a fast resolution,” Pahon said.

# Military spending included in temporary funding measure

BY TRAVIS J. TRITTEN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The lights will stay on in the Pentagon, and troops will get paid on time, at least through early December, after Congress averted a government shutdown with a last-minute, temporary budget deal Wednesday night.

After months of debate, Congress was unable to pass an annual budget on time and came within days this week of a government shutdown — and potential troop pay freeze — due to a dispute over emergency funds for the Flint, Mich., water crisis. A deal on money for Flint allowed lawmakers to pass the temporary budget, called a continuing resolution, and it set up another potential last-minute showdown over a final defense budget and other difficult military issues in November and December.

The temporary deal keeps

military spending at current levels without any of the changes requested by the Department of Defense in its 2017 budget, which was supposed to take effect at the end of this week.

It does provide a full year of funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs, which received a small boost from the previous year, and military construction projects. Congress included \$1.1 billion to combat the Zika virus as well as emergency funding for Louisiana and other areas hit by flooding, and the country's opioid epidemic.

The deal was a relief to lawmakers who were eager to leave Washington and get back to campaigning.

The lack of an annual defense budget irks the Defense Department and military, which is unable to make long-term plans and change tack without new spending authority.

The House and Senate broke

off negotiations earlier in September on an annual budget bill, the National Defense Authorization Act, after disagreements over the proposed \$18 billion increase in military spending.

The controversial spending increase spearheaded by the House would mostly buy new hardware such as aircraft and ships, put off troop cuts, provide a bigger pay raise for servicemembers and ease what hawks call a readiness crisis.

The Senate opposes it, partly because the \$18 billion would come from the overseas war fund and cause forces deployed to Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan to run out of money in April.

Lawmakers will have roughly one month to resolve those issues and pass some type of spending and policy plan for the military when they return to Washington in mid-November. Congress is scheduled to end its lame-duck session and go home Dec. 16.

# Accused shooter's mom is 'shocked'

*Associated Press*

TOWNVILLE, S.C. — The mother of a teen accused of killing his father and wounding two students and a teacher at a rural South Carolina elementary school says his family is "shocked and saddened."

The shooting began Wednesday afternoon in rural area of Townville. Authorities allege that the teenager killed Jeffrey Osborne, 47, and then drove to Townville Elementary School, about 2 miles away.

In a statement that Rev. James South provided to local media outlets, Tiffney Osborne says the family "cannot express the devastation we feel at the loss of our beloved Jeff."

Anderson County Sheriff John Skipper said Jamie Brock, a 30-year veteran of the Townville Volunteer Fire Department, "just took him down" and stopped the teen before he could get inside the school. The sheriff said the fire station is close to the school, and Brock arrived before other officers responding to the dispatch.

Sheriff's Lt. Sheila Cole said officers and forensic specialists were returning to the school Thursday morning to resume their investigation. Authorities also said audio from the 911 calls made after the shootings will not be released while the investigation is ongoing.

After he allegedly killed his father, the shooter drove a truck into the school parking lot and started firing as he got out and moved toward the school, Skipper said.

One student was shot in the leg and the other in the foot, sheriff's Capt. Garland Major said. The teacher was hit in the shoulder.

Authorities said they don't yet know a motive for the shooting, and they were not sure if the students and teacher were targeted. The sheriff said the teen had been homeschooled.

# 1 dead, 100-plus hurt in NJ train crash

*Associated Press*

HOBOKEN, N.J. — A crowded commuter train crashed into the bustling Hoboken station during the morning rush hour Thursday, killing at least one person and injuring more than 100 others, some critically, in a tangle of broken concrete, twisted metal and dangling cables, authorities said.

People pulled concrete off bleeding victims, and passengers kicked out windows and crawled out amid crying and screaming after the arriving New Jersey Transit train smashed through a barrier at the end of its track and ground to a halt in a covered waiting area. It apparently knocked out pillars, collapsing a section of the roof onto the first car.

The cause of the crash wasn't immediately known. The Na-

tional Transportation Safety Board sent investigators.

Investigators will want to know what the operator was doing before the crash and if the person was distracted, said Bob Chipkevich, who formerly headed the NTSB train crash investigations section.

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie said one person was killed.

The Hoboken Terminal, which handles more than 50,000 train and bus riders daily, is the final stop for several train lines and a transfer point for many commuters on their way to New York City.

None of NJ Transit's trains is fully equipped with positive train control, a safety system designed to prevent accidents by automatically slowing or stopping trains that are going too fast.

Jennifer Nelson, a spokes-

woman for NJ Transit, said she didn't know how fast the train was going when it crashed through the bumper. Rail service was suspended in and out of Hoboken.

The train had left Spring Valley, N.Y., at 7:23 a.m. and crashed at 8:45 a.m., said NJ Transit spokeswoman Nancy Snyder.

More than 100,000 people use NJ Transit trains to commute from New Jersey into New York City daily.

The Hoboken Terminal, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, has undergone waves of restoration, including a major project launched in April 2004 that largely restored the building to its original condition. The station was extensively damaged during Superstorm Sandy in 2012 and underwent repairs.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Cops: Woman sent nude photos to ex's teen son

**IA** ALTOONA — Des Moines police said a woman sent nude photos of herself to the teenage son of a former boyfriend.

Online court records say Charlotte Klisares, 46, is charged with dissemination and exhibition of obscene material to minors.

Court documents say the Altoona woman used Facebook in June to provide sexually graphic photos of herself and of herself and the 17-year-old boy's father, whom she had been dating off and on.

Police Sgt. Paul Parizek said the two had an unfriendly split and that each was alleging harassment by the other.

## Condolences offered in deaths of 2 cyclists

**CA** SANTA ROSA — Organizers of a motorcycle event in California offered condolences Tuesday to the families of two rising young riders who died from crashes in two separate races over the weekend.

AMA Pro Racing issued a statement saying it was "deeply saddened by the tragic loss" of Kyle McGrane, 17, and Charlotte Kainz, 20, whose fatal crashes occurred Sunday during an event at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds.

Both riders were participating in races at the Ramspur Winery Santa Rosa Mile AMA Pro Flat Track Motorcycle Race, according to The Santa Rosa Press Democrat.

McGrane, of Gap, Pa., died Monday of injuries sustained when he crashed coming out of the fourth turn of the final lap of his race, Michael Lock, the CEO of AMA Pro Racing, told The Santa Rosa Press

Democrat.

In a race earlier Sunday, Kainz, of the Milwaukee area, collided with another rider and was rushed to a hospital where she later died.

## Zoo hopes new testing rules will aid elephants

**OK** OKLAHOMA CITY — The Oklahoma City Zoo says it hopes new testing procedures will help prevent elephant deaths due to the elephant herpes virus.

The Oklahoman reported that in October, a 4-year-old Asian elephant died before results of a blood test confirming that it had the virus arrived. In response, the zoo began the process of purchasing a machine that will bring all its testing for the virus, which can kill quickly, in house.

Blood samples are usually sent to the National Zoo in Washington.

With the purchase of the \$25,000 machine, staff will be able to have results in three hours rather than 36 hours.

## 2 teens hurt in shooting mishap at gun show

**UT** SANDY — Two juveniles suffered minor injuries last weekend in an accidental shooting at a gun show in suburban Salt Lake City.

Saturday's accident occurred at the South Towne Expo Center in Sandy when a potential buyer of a Colt .45 didn't realize the handgun had a round in the chamber when he pointed it toward the floor and pulled the trigger.

Sandy Police Sgt. Dean Carriker told KSL-TV the bullet struck the floor and ricocheted into a pillar. Concrete chips hit a nearby 17-year-old boy and his 13-year-old cousin.

A paramedic examined the

two teens and their parents signed a waiver declining further medical attention. Carriker said the person who fired the gun is unlikely to be cited.

## Boy, 5, walks away from school; probe underway

**HI** HONOLULU — An investigation is underway after a 5-year-old boy walked off his school's campus and was later found about a mile away.

The boy's mother, Crystal Dejesus, told KHON-TV that she wants the staff at Waianae Elementary School to pay more attention to the children.

The Hawaii Department of Education said the boy was supposed to wait for his mother in the school office but mistakenly started walking home.

Area residents found the boy.

No one from the school or education department was available for comment, but an emailed statement said no further details could be provided during the investigation.

## Man guilty in illegal food stamps scheme

**ND** FARGO — A man has pleaded guilty to operating a scheme at a Fargo neighborhood grocery store in which government food stamp benefits were illegally turned into cash.

Zedan Ali is charged in federal court with conspiracy and money laundering. Authorities say he and two other men defrauded the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance program while operating at the Noor Al Huda store between March 2011 and March 2013.

Ali, 51, was arrested in Charlotte, N.C., in May.

Two other men have been sentenced in the case. Lamia Ali and Abass Amedi were

ordered to serve unspecified periods of home confinement, perform community service and repay more than \$365,000.

## Proposal to move city's Don King Way dropped

**OH** CLEVELAND — Cleveland's city council won't further consider a proposal to put Don King's name on the street where the legendary boxing promoter stomped a man to death in 1966.

The honorary "Don King Way" already exists in Cleveland, on a segment of a boulevard near the newspaper he owns. Two council members proposed moving the honorary street name to an avenue where King killed an employee.

Cleveland.com reported the council president determined the proposal won't move forward.

## Adventurers back from protest in wilderness

**MN** ELY — Two adventurers who spent an entire year in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area have returned to civilization.

Dave and Amy Freeman paddled out of the wilderness last weekend, accompanied by more than 200 supporters in more than 65 canoes and kayaks.

The Freemans spent the year there to call attention to the threat they say the proposed Twin Metals copper-nickel mine near Ely poses to the Boundary Waters.

Since the Freemans began their journey, Gov. Mark Dayton has come out against mining in such close proximity to the wilderness, and federal agencies have expressed strong reservations.

From wire reports

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STARS AND STRIPES®

# No. 3 Louisville, early Heisman favorite Jackson face Watson, No. 5 Clemson

Associated Press

CLEMSON, S.C.— Receiver Ray-Ray McCloud can't wait to see how teammate Deshaun Watson responds when No. 3 Louisville plays at Clemson on Saturday.

McCloud knows the maddeningly calm and careful Watson will be primed to show the Cardinals and Heisman Trophy front-runner Lamar Jackson who is truly on top of the Atlantic Coast Conference.

"I know he's the best player in the country," McCloud said of the fifth-ranked Tigers quarterback. "For him to go out there against someone who supposedly is the best player in the country as well is just going to get him to a whole other level."

Watson and the Tigers (4-0, 1-0 ACC) will certainly need it this week.

Louisville (4-0, 2-0), behind Jackson's dynamic play, has been the surprise of college football. The Cardinals made believers of many two weeks ago with a 63-20 demolition of highly ranked Florida State, a game in which Jackson accounted for five touchdowns.

Last week, Jackson had 479 yards of offense and seven touchdowns in a 59-28 victory over Marshall last Saturday to set up the ACC Atlantic's undefeated showcase.

Those are similar to the eye-popping numbers Watson amassed much of last season in leading Clemson to the ACC championship and a spot in the national title game.

Watson hasn't put up big numbers so far but in a 26-7 win at Georgia Tech last week he threw for 304 yards — his first time this season surpassing 300 yards — with two touchdowns as the Tigers built a 23-0 halftime lead in their league opener.

It was a positive step, Watson felt, although still not where he and Clemson's offense hopes to be by season's end.

"We're going to focus on what we've got to do at Clemson," Watson said Monday. "We can't focus on Louisville or Lamar Jackson. We've got to do what we do."

In a head-to-head matchup, though, give Watson the check mark for big-game experience.

Watson excelled in several

of them last year in showdown wins over No. 6 Notre Dame (24-22), No. 17 Florida State (23-13), No. 8 North Carolina (45-37) and No. 2 Oklahoma (37-17).

Watson nearly stole the show in a 45-40 loss to national champion Alabama last January with 478 yards of offense and four TD passes.

"If you play this game, all the great ones love the great competition of going against the best," Watson said.

Still, Watson said he won't let himself get caught up in a Lamar-vs.-Deshaun mentality. The Heisman Trophy belonged to LSU runner Leonard Fournette this time a year ago before eventually going to Alabama's Derrick Henry, Watson recalled.

"I just do what I do to win," he said. "I can't control what people think about the Heisman (race). That's out of my league."

Louisville coach Bobby Petrino said his team showed good focus last week and expected a similar attention to detail in prepping for Clemson.

"I think we're excited for it,"

he said. "We feel like it's a great opportunity for us. Our guys have worked extremely hard for it, put a lot of effort and dedication into getting here. Let's go play it."

Watson's had his issues with Louisville's defense in his two previous meetings. In 2014, Watson cracked a finger on a helmet in the first quarter and missed the rest of Clemson's 23-17 win. Watson was healthy, but off target at Louisville last season as Clemson held on for a 20-17 victory. He finished with 199 yards passing and two touchdowns, but threw two interceptions and struggled to consistently move the offense.

Watson said that game was a building block toward bigger things later on — something he believes is also happening this season as Clemson's attack continues its slow burn to success.

"We're still having the same energy that we had before, preparing at the same high level," Watson said. "We just want to be 1-0 this week and move on from there."

## Siemian won't find anyone griping about him this week

Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — There won't be any griping from Trevor Siemian's critics this week, Emmanuel Sanders and Demaryius Thomas included.

In leading Denver (3-0) to a 29-17 win at Cincinnati on Sunday, Siemian became the first quarterback in NFL history to throw for 300 yards and four touchdowns without an interception in his first road start.

When coach Gary Kubiak awarded him a game ball in the jubilant locker room at Paul Brown Stadium afterward, Siemian's teammates acted like

they'd just won the lottery.

"That's just the type of team that we got, just wild, crazy guys," said Von Miller, who's sure this was just the first of many accolades coming Siemian's way.

"He's just got that aura about him," Miller suggested. "If you would have told me three years ago after Peyton, it was going to be Trevor and he was going to be this good, I don't think anybody else could have predicted that. It just shows you the type of work that he put in, the type of guy that he is."

An afterthought in college, where he only started one full

season at Northwestern, Siemian was a seventh-round pick in 2015 and the forgotten man behind the Peyton Manning and Brock Osweiler drama during the Broncos' Super Bowl season.

Even when Manning retired and Osweiler bolted in free agency, Siemian found himself behind journeyman Mark Sanchez, whom he promptly beat out this summer.

Any notion that he was keeping the seat warm for first-round draft pick Paxton Lynch fizzled with his play Sunday. It was his second fourth-quarter comeback in three weeks, the

kind that marked the careers of both his predecessor and his boss, Hall of Fame QB-turned-GM John Elway.

Siemian was 8-for-9 for 148 yards and two touchdowns after the Broncos fell behind 17-16 on Mike Nugent's 34-yard field goal early in the fourth quarter.

"He's got that elite type of feel about him, the same feel that Peyton had about him," Miller said. "He's still got a long way to go. But I believe in him. I believe in Trevor all the way. He just makes all the right decisions. He's got a strong arm. I believe in him."

# US takes new attitude into Ryder Cup

Associated Press

Phil Mickelson kept hearing the wrong tone of cheers coming from the 18th green, one after another, until he realized the singles match he was on the verge of winning would not prevent Europe from capturing the Ryder Cup.

This was 1995 at Oak Hill, where he went 3-0 in his debut at the most fervent, flag-waving, fanatical three days of golf.

Mickelson never could have imagined what would follow.

That was the start of Europe winning eight out of 10 times, a dominance so pronounced that the mighty Americans were reduced over the years to soul searching, finger pointing and ultimately creating a “Ryder Cup Task Force” to figure out why they usually have the best players but rarely win.

Maybe this time will be different. They seem to think that every two years.

“I think we have a completely different attitude and culture this time around,” U.S. captain Davis Love III said.

Even though the Americans have won only twice in the last 23 years, they will be seen as favorites again when the 41st Ryder Cup starts Friday at

Hazeltine National in Chaska, Minn.

The 12 players on the U.S. team are among the top 30 in the world, including U.S. Open champion Dustin Johnson, Jordan Spieth and PGA champion Jimmy Walker. They are playing on home soil and before the most raucous atmosphere in golf.

Love said on SiriusXM a week before the matches that “this is the best golf team maybe ever assembled.”

Europe, led by Darren Clarke, has a pair of major champions in Danny Willett (Masters) and Henrik Stenson (British Open). Europe has five other rookies who will be experiencing this high-charged atmosphere before an American crowd.

The pressure, however, falls to the Americans.

Europeans quietly mocked the U.S. team for creating its task force, which included Mickelson and Tiger Woods, Love and former Ryder Cup captain Tom Lehman, all of them part of a losing culture in these matches.

The task force brought Love back as captain for the second time — he was in charge in 2012 when the Americans built a 10-6 lead going into Sunday

singles and wound up watching another European celebration at Medinah. It extended the deadlines for making the four captain’s picks, saving the last one until after the Tour Championship.

And it built a model geared toward continuity so that assistant captains could only be past captains or players considered to be future captains. Beyond that, it shifted decisions entirely away from the PGA of America so the players would be more involved.

“Look, we still have to play great golf to win,” Mickelson said. “And we’re still playing an incredibly talented team that has great players who shoot low scores. And we’re going to have a tough task. But the difference is we’re being put in a position to succeed because we’re going in with a proper game plan and every opportunity to play our best golf, as opposed to creating challenges though the week to overcome.”

Mickelson was largely responsible for this.

Europe had little resistance in winning two years ago at Gleneagles in Scotland, and the American team appeared to be more dysfunctional than usual. The PGA of America selected

Tom Watson as the captain, even though he was 69 and had not been to the Ryder Cup since he was the winning captain in 1993.

Watson sat out Mickelson and Keegan Bradley all day Saturday.

During the closing U.S. press conference, with Watson sitting at the same table, Mickelson questioned why the Americans got away from a winning formula — in 2008 with Paul Azinger at the helm — and that Watson didn’t listen to any player input.

For all the talk about playing as a team, the nuances of foursomes (alternate shot) and making the right pairings, the Ryder Cup can be decided by the slimmest of margins. Europe won in 2012 on the strength of Justin Rose making a 45-foot putt that turned around his match with Mickelson. It won in 2010 mainly because Rory McIlroy escaped with a half-point against Stewart Cink. The 2002 Ryder Cup came down to Paul McGinley saving par on the final hole.

Now Europe is trying to win for the fourth straight time, which would be its longest streak.

## Europeans get extra motivation from Love’s remarks

Associated Press

CHASKA, Minn. — Davis Love III said he was only trying to illustrate why his U.S. team should play with more swagger in the Ryder Cup. His comments wound up providing plenty of fodder for the Europeans, and perhaps a little extra motivation they didn’t even need.

The catch phrase for this Ryder Cup: “Best golf team maybe ever assembled.”

That’s what Love said in a radio interview last week. Rory McIlroy seized on it, joking that the Americans at least had the best Ryder Cup Task Force ever assembled. He couldn’t

help but mention it again Tuesday before the first practice session at Hazeltine.

“Whenever we are going up against one of the greatest teams ever assembled, that’s motivation enough,” McIlroy said.

Adding to the bulletin-board material was NBC Sports analyst Johnny Miller saying Europe had the worst team he had seen in years, particularly with six rookies.

The record shows otherwise.

Europe has won eight of the last 10 times in the Ryder Cup dating to 1995, and while there are six players who have never experienced the emotions and

pressure of the Ryder Cup, only four Europeans on the team know the feeling of losing.

“At the end of the day, you don’t win the Ryder Cups with your mouth,” Sergio Garcia said. “You win them out there on the golf course. So that’s what we’ll see, which team is the best.”

Love said the conversation on SiriusXM Radio last Friday was “misconstrued.” He said a Canadian caller had said the Americans needed to play with more swagger, and Love agreed with him. He said the host asked what he would tell his team.

“And I said: ‘I would tell my

team they’re the best team ever assembled. Let’s go out and show off and play and have fun,’” Love said.

It didn’t quite come out that way.

Love said on the radio show that Americans have been guilty of playing not to lose, and that they need to smash the tee shot, walk quickly to the golf ball and “let the other team know that we are going to dominate you.” He talked about having confidence and how the Americans didn’t need to do anything “super human.”

“This is a great team,” he said. “This is the best golf team maybe ever assembled.”

# Kim's pinch-hit HR lifts O's over Jays

Associated Press

TORONTO — Hyun Soo Kim said he'd never hit a bigger home run.

His timely drive gave Baltimore's wild-card hopes a big boost.

Kim hit a pinch-hit, two-run homer in the ninth inning off Roberto Osuna, and the Orioles beat Toronto 3-2 on Wednesday night to move within one game of the AL wild card-leading Blue Jays.

"It's hard to describe," Kim said through a translator. "It's just such a great feeling."

With Toronto ahead 2-1, Jonathan Schoop singled with one out, pinch-runner Michael Bourn stole second and Kim homered on a 3-2 pitch into the visiting bullpen in right, causing the Orioles relievers to jump in celebration.

"Everyone in the dugout was going nuts," slugger Mark Trumbo said.

Kim is 6-for-9 with two walks as a pinch hitter.

"We're lucky to have a guy hitting .300 come off the bench," manager Buck Show-

alter said. "We felt like he'd give us a good at bat."

Baltimore right-hander Chris Tillman said the dramatic victory could provide the Orioles with some much-needed momentum.

"I think that could push a team a long way, those kind of wins," Tillman said. "It was a big team win and everybody played a part in it."

Osuna (3-3) has five blown save chances, including two in his last three appearances.

"I feel good, I'm not worried at all," he said. "My fastball just stayed down the middle, and he took advantage of it."

Trumbo hit his major league-leading 46th home run, a solo drive off Jason Grilli in the eighth. Sacrifice flies by Edwin Encarnacion in the first and Kevin Pillar in the second had built a 2-0 lead.

"I thought Trum's home run kind of got some positive vibes back in the game," Showalter said.

Brian Duensing (1-0) got one out, and

Zach Britton finished for his 47th save in as many tries.

"Zach came in there and didn't let the momentum get away from us," Showalter said.

Blue Jays left-hander Francisco Liriano struck out 10 over six shutout innings. Toronto starters have allowed one earned run or none in a team-record seven straight games.

Liriano was perfect until Adam Jones singled to begin the fourth. Davis followed with a single but Liriano struck out the next three batters. Baltimore loaded the bases with two outs in the fifth but Davis took a called third strike.

Liriano left to a standing ovation after Jonathan Schoop's single put runners at first and second in the seventh. Brett Cecil came on and struck out Nolan Reimold before Troy Tulowitzki went deep into the hole at shortstop to retire Jones on a groundout.

# Teixera grand slam keeps Yanks' playoff hopes alive

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Mark Teixeira hit a grand slam with two outs in the ninth inning, and the New York Yankees staved off playoff elimination at the last possible moment with a 5-3 victory over the Boston Red Sox on Wednesday night.

Boston clinched the AL East title nearly 30 minutes before Teixeira connected, thanks to Toronto's 3-2 loss against Baltimore. But a five-run comeback by New York in the ninth prevented its longtime rival from celebrating on the Yankee Stadium field.

**Tigers 6, Indians 3 (5):** Miguel Cabrera hit a tiebreaking three-run homer in the fifth inning, moments before the game was halted for good, and host Detroit came away with a rain-shortened win over Cleveland to keep pace with Baltimore in the AL wild-card race.

Detroit trails the Orioles by one game for the AL's second wild card, and the Tigers certainly caught a break in this one. The rain was a factor

throughout the evening — there was also a delay during the third inning — and it was certainly coming down when Detroit began its rally in the fifth.

**Rockies 2, Giants 0:** Jeff Samardzija (12-11) gave his team a chance to grab momentum after a big offensive outburst a night earlier, but playoff-hopeful San Francisco wasted it with a costly dud on its home field.

San Francisco dropped to 1½ games behind the Mets for the top wild card and remained a game up on St. Louis for the second spot after the Cardinals lost to Cincinnati.

**Pirates 8, Cubs 4:** John Jaso hit for the cycle and drove in five runs in host Pittsburgh's victory over Chicago.

**Rangers 8, Brewers 5:** Carlos Gomez hit a three-run homer in the eighth inning and AL-leading Texas beat visiting Milwaukee for its major league-best 49th come-from-behind victory.

Texas (94-65) moved closer to home-field advantage with a 1½-game lead over Boston for the best record in the AL.

**Royals 5, Twins 2:** Kendrys Morales and Alex Gordon keyed an eighth-inning rally to help their team beat Minnesota, but host Kansas City was still knocked out of playoff contention.

The defending World Series champs were eliminated when Baltimore beat Toronto.

**Mets 5, Marlins 2:** Florida's players walked half a block alongside a hearse carrying their ace away from their home park at the start of a funeral motorcade, then peeled away with watery eyes to go back inside and play New York.

**Mariners 12, Astros 4:** Robinson Cano hit a three-run homer in the first inning, and visiting Seattle beat Houston to keep pressure on the other AL wild-card contenders.

**Padres 6, Dodgers 5:** Rookie Hunter Renfroe hit the first home run in Petco Park history to land on the roof of the brick warehouse in the left-field corner and drove in four runs to lead host San Diego.

**Reds 2, Cardinals 1:** Adam Duvall's two-run single was all

visiting Cincinnati needed to beat St. Louis.

The Reds' third win in their last four games dealt a blow to the Cardinals' playoff hopes. St. Louis lost ground in the race for the two NL wild cards.

**Diamondbacks 3, Nationals 0 (5):** Shelby Miller (3-12) threw five shutout innings, Jean Segura had three hits to reach 200 for the season and visiting Arizona beat Washington a rain-shortened game.

**White Sox 1, Rays 0:** Todd Frazier hit his 40th home run, Miguel Gonzalez (5-7) waited out a rain delay to throw 8⅓ dominant innings and host Chicago beat Tampa Bay.

**Braves 12, Phillies 2:** Matt Kemp hit a two-run homer, Daniel Castro had three RBIs and Dansby Swanson also drove in two runs, leading host Atlanta past Philadelphia.

**Angels 8, Athletics 6:** Kole Calhoun homered, Alex Meyer (2-3) earned his second major league win and host Los Angeles held off a late rally from Oakland to sweep the three-game series.