

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Dunford: Assume N. Korea can strike US

BY COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The United States should assume North Korea can already strike its mainland with missiles, the top American general said Tuesday while cautioning that Kim Jong Un primarily seeks nuclear weapons to maintain control of his regime.

But amid heightened tensions between the two nations and as top leaders trade fiery rhetoric and threats of military action, the North Koreans have not altered their military posture in recent months, said Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

“We watch that very carefully,” Dunford told lawmakers during a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing to consider his reappointment to chairman. “What we haven’t seen is [North Korean] military activity that would be reflective of that charged political environment.”

Dunford said North Korea poses the greatest immediate

threat to the United States of all its enemies.

American intelligence officials believe North Korea could be able to strike the U.S. mainland as early as late 2018. Dunford, who is expected to be confirmed easily to serve a second term as chairman of the Joint Chiefs, said Tuesday that he agrees with that assessment.

“Whether it’s three months or six months or 18 months, it is soon,” he said. “We ought to conduct ourselves as though it is just a matter of time, a matter of very short time, before North Korea has that capability.”

The Pentagon has provided President Donald Trump with a range of military options for dealing with North Korea, but Dunford and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis have warned any strike on the Kim regime could result on a massive artillery barrage on Seoul, the capital of South Korea where 25 million people, including some 250,000 Americans, live. Mattis told reporters last week there are military options that do not endanger Seoul.

The Pentagon remains committed to backing the State Department-led efforts to keep nuclear weapons out of North Korea through diplomatic channels and economic sanctions, Dunford said. But he also warned U.S. intelligence assessments show Kim is unlikely to give up his nuclear or ballistic missile programs because the dictator believes they ensure he will remain in power.

In 2017, the Kim regime has launched 22 missiles, including two intercontinental ballistic missiles, or ICBMs, that experts believe are capable of traveling about 10,000 miles. The regime conducted its sixth nuclear test, and most powerful to date, on Sept. 3. Kim has stated his intention to develop a nuclear-tipped ICBM to strike the United States.

The North Koreans said this week that they intend to test a nuclear-capable ICBM over the Pacific Ocean soon, an unprecedented act that Dunford said would be “incredibly provocative.”

The North Koreans on Mon-

day also accused Trump of declaring war on the regime and threatened to shoot down American warplanes flying in international airspace near their borders.

Multiple senators warned Tuesday that they were concerned such rhetoric from both sides increased the potential for miscalculation that could lead to a brutal war.

“I have a queasy feeling that we are in 1914 stumbling toward Sarajevo,” Sen. Angus King, I-Maine, said, citing the location of events that triggered World War I. “What worries me is not an instantaneous nuclear confrontation but an accidental escalation based upon the rhetoric that is going back and forth.”

Dunford, who did not specifically comment on the political rhetoric, said the United States, for now, is adequately protected against threats to U.S. territory. But he urged lawmakers to invest in upgrades to the nation’s ballistic missile defense, which will be needed as North Korea — and other nations — increase their capabilities.

## Passed over for promotion, Adm. Swift opts to retire

BY WYATT OLSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — The Navy’s top Pacific commander has opted to retire after learning he will not be tapped to lead U.S. Pacific Command.

Adm. Scott Swift, Pacific Fleet commander, said in a statement Monday that the chief of naval operations has informed him he will not succeed Adm. Harry Harris, who is slated to retire next year.

“In keeping with tradition and in loyalty to the Navy, I have submitted my request to retire,” Swift said.

A retirement date for Swift has not yet been requested, the statement added.

Commanders of Pacific Fleet, which oversees U.S. naval forces from California to India, are often nominated to head PACOM. Swift took command of the Pacific Fleet in May 2015 after Harris’ promotion.

Swift’s tenure included a string of accidents involving Navy ships in the Pacific.

In January, the USS Antietam ran aground and spilled roughly 1,100 gallons of hydraulic fluid into Tokyo Bay. In May, the USS Lake Champlain collided with a South Korean fishing boat while

operating off the east coast of the divided peninsula. In June, a collision between the USS Fitzgerald and a Philippine-flagged merchant ship killed seven sailors. Last month, a collision between the USS John S. McCain and a civilian merchant vessel killed 10 sailors.

The commanders of 7th Fleet, Task Force 70 and Destroyer Squadron 15 were relieved after the collisions.

While Harris has been a fierce critic of China’s aspirations in the South China Sea, Swift often expressed the need for the U.S. and Chinese militaries to find common ground.

However, Swift made headlines in July when he was asked during a security conference in Australia whether he would launch nuclear missiles toward China if the president ordered him to do so.

“The answer would be yes,” he said. “Every member of the U.S. military has sworn an oath to defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic and to obey the officers and the president of the United States as the commander in chief appointed over us.”

## Water, some food still scarce on Puerto Rico

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Supermarkets are gradually re-opening in hurricane-ravaged Puerto Rico but the situation is far from normal and many customers are going home disappointed.

Most food stores and restaurants remain closed. That is largely because power is out for most of the island and few have generators or enough diesel to power them. The shops that were open Monday had long lines outside and vast empty shelves where they once held milk, meat and other perishables. Drinking water was nowhere to be found.

Mercedes Caro shook her head in frustration as she emerged from the SuperMax in the Condado neighborhood of San Juan with a loaf of white bread, cheese and bananas.

"There is no water and practically no food," she said. "Not even spaghetti."

That some stores and restaurants have re-opened for the first time since Category 4 Hurricane Maria roared across the island Sept. 20 is welcome in a place where nearly everyone has no power and more than half the people don't have water.

Gov. Ricardo Rossello and other Puerto Rican officials said some ports have been cleared by the Coast Guard to resume accepting ships, which should allow businesses to restock. But the situation remains far from normal.

President Donald Trump says he'll visit Puerto Rico next Tuesday to survey damage caused by the hurricane.

Trump said Tuesday is the earliest he can visit without disrupting recovery and relief operations.

# US military helping victims in Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands

By COREY DICKSTEIN  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department has dispatched about 2,600 troops to aid Hurricane Maria victims in the U.S. Virgin Islands and in Puerto Rico, where access to power and communications remained severely limited five days after the Category 4 storm struck the U.S. territory.

The military has focused primarily on conducting search-and-rescue operations, delivering life-sustaining supplies and providing generators and fuel to power critical infrastructure such as water treatment facilities and hospitals, Army Col. Rob Manning, a Pentagon spokesman, said Monday.

Military units also were conducting route and airfield clear-

ance in Puerto Rico, Manning said. Marines and sailors from the USS Kearsarge, a Wasp-class amphibious assault ship now in the Caribbean Sea, were deployed Sunday on the island for the mission.

Meanwhile, Puerto Rico National Guard members were conducting similar clearance operations while also helping evacuate victims and installing temporary communications infrastructure.

Helicopter-borne troops from the Kearsarge have conducted eight medical evacuation missions this week and delivered about 22,200 pounds of supplies and cargo to Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, Manning said. The Kearsarge initially was deployed to respond to Hurricane Harvey when the storm struck the Texas coast in

late August. The ship has since been used to respond to hurricanes Irma and Maria.

Also, the Pentagon on Monday deployed eight UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters from Fort Campbell in Kentucky to San Juan to help officials in Puerto Rico distribute goods across the island, Manning said. Officials have estimated it will be months before power is restored to some parts of the island, which is home to 3.4 million people.

Army Corps of Engineers personnel on Monday were helping inspect the Guajataca Dam, a critical levee in Puerto Rico's northwest corner that is in danger of breaking, Manning said. Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rossello on Friday ordered 70,000 inhabitants near the dam to evacuate.

## Administration faces pressure to speed aid

The Washington Post

The Trump administration is under pressure to speed up recovery efforts in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, where conditions in the wake of Hurricane Maria have become raw and primitive amid an intensifying fear that the worst of the crisis is yet to come.

President Donald Trump says he'll visit Puerto Rico next Tuesday to survey damage caused by Hurricane Maria. The president said Tuesday is the earliest he can visit without disrupting recovery and relief operations.

Prominent Democrats, while not directly criticizing the Trump administration, offered pointed advice. Hillary Clinton on Twitter urged them to send in the relief ship USNS Comfort — which instead is docked in Norfolk, Va., sidelined because the Navy does not believe the compromised ports in the islands can handle the big ship right now.

House Democratic Leader

Nancy Pelosi, of California, said the administration "must act immediately to make available additional Department of Defense resources for search-and-rescue operations, law enforcement and transportation needs."

The administration Monday said its response has been robust. The Federal Emergency Management Agency, which coordinates the recovery effort, said 10,000 federal employees have been deployed to the Caribbean. The Coast Guard has sent in 13 ships known as cutters. Commercial barges are arriving with relief supplies.

The National Guard is being housed on barges and on a cruise ship that arrived last weekend.

However, officials leading the response and recovery admit they're facing serious logistical challenges, starting with damage to the ports and airports. Many of those facilities have been re-opened just within the past day or two, but only for daytime operations, because of safety con-

cerns. Radar and control tower capabilities are low, limiting the pace of incoming flights.

Amid news reports of horrific conditions in the U.S. island territories, President Donald Trump Monday night reeled off a series of tweets that called attention to the infrastructure problems in Puerto Rico predating the arrival of Maria: "Texas & Florida are doing great but Puerto Rico, which was already suffering from broken infrastructure & massive debt, is in deep trouble.. ...It's old electrical grid, which was in terrible shape, was devastated. Much of the Island was destroyed, with billions of dollars.... ..owed to Wall Street and the banks which, sadly, must be dealt with. Food, water and medical are top priorities - and doing well. #FEMA."

Federal officials say there's no way aid can reach the islands as quickly as it reached Texas or Florida after they were slammed with hurricanes in recent weeks.

# Fort Benning infantry training commander removed from duty

BY COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Army quietly removed the commander of one of its two infantry training battalions at Fort Benning recently, a spokesman for the Army post in Georgia said Monday.

Army Lt. Col. Robert Howard was relieved of command of the 2nd Battalion, 58th Infantry Regiment, 198th Infantry Brigade “for a loss of confidence in his ability to command,” said Ben Garrett, a spokesman for Fort Benning’s Maneuver Center of Excellence, which is

responsible for infantry recruit training.

Garrett declined to provide additional information, including why Howard was removed from duty or who made the decision to fire him.

The unit is one of two battalions that oversee the Army’s One Station Unit Training for infantrymen, which combines Basic Combat Training and infantry Advanced Individual Training into a single 14-week class.

Howard’s removal comes about one month after the Army announced it had suspended several Fort Benning drill ser-

geants amid an investigation into allegations of sexual assault raised by female trainees.

That inquiry began after one female trainee alleged a drill instructor sexually assaulted her, and a preliminary investigation revealed indications of additional “sexual misconduct” involving drill sergeants and trainees, officials said Aug. 23. The Army’s Criminal Investigation Command is leading the investigation.

Garrett said the investigation is ongoing and declined to comment on it.

# Japanese remember Marine Corps crash victims

BY HANA KUSUMOTO  
*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOHAMA, Japan — Paper cranes and flowers were placed over the weekend near a statue of a mother holding her two children to mark 40 years since a deadly Marine Corps plane crash in Kanagawa Prefecture.

About 60 people observed a moment of silence Saturday at the Yokohama statue to remember Kazue Doshida and her 3-year-old and 1-year-old sons, who were killed after an RF-4B Phantom II reconnaissance jet crashed into their home near Naval Air Facility Atsugi on Sept. 27, 1977.

“Lives of innocent residents were taken away by a military jet and we shouldn’t let a tragedy like this happen again,” said Masahiro Saito, the gathering’s organizer.

The Marine jet crashed soon after it took off from Atsugi heading to the USS Midway aircraft carrier in Tokyo Bay. The crew tried to ditch the plane in the sea but, realizing they wouldn’t make it, steered toward a less populated hillside and ejected.

The plane struck people’s homes. Doshida’s sons died of burns soon after and she succumbed to complications from her own burns four years later. Six others were injured and 51 houses were burned or destroyed.

Doshida, who underwent several skin grafts, wasn’t told that her sons were dead for a year. After finding out, she said she wanted to hold them one more time. The statue was built in 1985 to fulfill her wish.

Junior high school students told those who gathered at the statue over the weekend about the accident. Their teacher, Masahiro Yamada, said the children wanted to remember what happened.

“Even Yokohama residents are starting to forget [about the accident] even though it has only been 40 years,” Yamada said.

# Vets groups address disrespect following protests by players

BY DIANNA CAHN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — Top veterans organizations jumped into the fray this week over whether National Football League players sitting or kneeling during the national anthem is an affront to patriotism, “disrespecting” active-duty and former servicemembers. Fueling the controversy were tweets from President Donald Trump insulting protesting players and calling for them to be fired.

At the core of the debate: Should highly paid athletes use their positions to highlight social issues, or are those actions during the national anthem misguided?

“There is a time and place for civil debate, and wearing team jerseys and using sporting events to disrespect our country doesn’t wash with millions of military veterans who have and continue to wear real uniforms on real battlefields around the globe,” said Keith Harman, a Vietnam veteran who heads the

1.7 million-member Veterans of Foreign Wars. “I stand for our flag and anthem, and I kneel for our fallen. That’s what patriots do.”

American Legion Commander Denise Rohan called the players “misguided and ungrateful.”

But some players, including former Army Ranger Alejandro Villanueva of the Pittsburgh Steelers, say disrespecting the troops was never the intent and the gesture shouldn’t be taken that way.

“I take no offense,” said Villanueva, who stood Sunday for the anthem as his team waited in the tunnel. “I don’t think veterans at the end of the day take any offense,” he added Monday. “They actually signed up and fought so that somebody could take a knee and protest peacefully whatever it is that their hearts desire.”

Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America — which represents many of the youngest veterans — supports tolerance for differing perspectives.

“We have seen that IAVA’s Post-9/11 veterans have opinions all across the spectrum on this issue,” its statement said. “Our members’ opinions, just like our members themselves, are very diverse. We hope all their voices are heard and respected as much as those of any professional athlete or politician.”

On Sunday, 250 athletes on more than two dozen teams knelt or stood with locked arms when the anthem was played, in a show of solidarity against Trump’s comments.

The debate began more than a year ago as a race issue when Colin Kaepernick, then quarterback for the San Francisco 49ers, refused to stand during the anthem as a protest over police treatment of minorities.

What began as an act by one joined by a handful of players turned into a league-wide protest after Trump began a series of tweets Friday calling the protesting players “sons of bitches” who should get off the field. On Saturday, he called on Americans to boycott the NFL.

# Carrier's labor costs missing Navy's goal

Bloomberg

Huntington Ingalls Industries is falling short of a U.S. Navy goal to reduce hours of labor on the second ship in the new Ford class of aircraft carriers in a drive to reduce costs, according to service documents.

With 34 percent of construction complete on the USS John F. Kennedy, Huntington Ingalls estimates it will be able to reduce labor hours by 16 percent from the hours needed to construct the first vessel, the Gerald R. Ford. That's less than the 17 percent reduction reported at the end of last year and the 18 percent goal the Navy negotiated in the primary construction contract for the carrier.

The "recent degradation in cost performance stems largely from the delayed availability of

certain categories of material," such as pipe fittings, controllers, actuators and valves, according to the Navy's annual report on the program and updated figures obtained by Bloomberg.

The first carrier is expected to cost \$12.9 billion, making it the most expensive U.S. warship. Lawmakers have criticized overruns that totaled about \$2.4 billion and problems with construction and system reliability that delayed delivery by about 32 months.

The Navy needs to keep the next carrier's costs under an \$11.4 billion cap set by Congress as the service seeks funds to expand its fleet to 350 vessels from 279 deployed today.

"We acknowledge that the cost reduction target for CVN-79," relative to the first carrier, "is challenging," Hun-

tington Ingalls spokeswoman Beci Brenton said in an email, referring to the Kennedy by its Navy designation. "While it is still early in the ship's schedule, we are seeing positive results from" new initiatives to keep costs in check, she said.

About 49 million hours of labor were expended to build the Ford, according to the U.S. Government Accountability Office. The Navy's goal for the Kennedy is to reduce that to about 40 million hours.

Navy Secretary Richard Spencer told reporters last week that he will stay involved in monitoring the CVN-79's construction trends. "This is my personal approach — the CEO has to be involved."

The Navy has been working with the contractors "to mitigate technical risks and

impacts of late material," Navy spokesman Victor Chen said in an email. "The overall volume of late material items and associated impact to construction performance is declining. The Navy has hired third-party experts who are working collaboratively with the shipbuilder to identify manufacturing opportunities for efficiency gains" and to assist in implementing improvements.

The 18 percent reduction in labor hours was "quite optimistic" from the start, Michele Mackin, who oversees the GAO's shipbuilding assessments, said in an email. "Even based on that assumption, the \$11.4 billion cost cap was unlikely to be met," she said.

The Kennedy remains on track for a preliminary acceptance by the Navy in 2020.

## Canada turns ex-Army analyst Manning away

The Washington Post

Former U.S. Army Intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning said Monday she was denied entry into Canada because of her criminal record, including violations of the U.S. Espionage Act.

Taking to Twitter, Manning, 29, posted a photo of a partially redacted Canadian report that said she was "inadmissible on the grounds of serious criminality." The report said that if she had been convicted in Canada, her crimes "would constitute an offense under an Act of Parliament punishable by a maximum term of imprisonment of at least 10 years."

"[S]o, i guess Canada has permanently banned me?" Manning said in her Twitter post. "[D]enied entry b/c of convictions similar to 'treason' offense."

In 2010, Manning, a transgender woman then known as Bradley, slipped hundreds of thousands of classified U.S. Army and diplomatic documents to WikiLeaks. The cache

was the largest leaked stash of classified government documents in the country's history. Manning later maintained she had released the material out of "a responsibility to the public."

Manning eventually was convicted on 20 counts, including six violations of the U.S. Espionage Act, and sentenced to 35 years in prison. But seven years into her sentence, Manning's prison term was commuted by President Barack Obama in the final days of his presidency.

Earlier this month, Manning was named a visiting fellow by the Kennedy School's Institute of Politics at Harvard University. Soon after, CIA Director Mike Pompeo declared Manning "an American traitor" and backed out of a scheduled appearance at the university. After others also protested, Harvard withdrew the fellowship invitation, calling it a "mistake."

Manning had attempted to enter Canada on Friday at a border crossing at St-Bernard-de-Lacolle, Quebec, CBC News reported.

## First female 4-star admiral set to retire

BY SCOTT WYLAND

Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — Adm. Michelle Howard, the first woman to become a four-star admiral, will end her groundbreaking Navy career when she retires by January.

Howard, 57, will relinquish command of U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa and Allied Joint Force Command Naples to Vice Adm. James Foggo, who will be promoted to admiral when he takes over on Oct. 20.

Capt. Pam Kunze, Naval Forces Europe spokeswoman, said Howard will retire but could give no specific date nor any information on Howard's post-Navy plans.

Howard, who declined to comment, has commanded naval forces in Europe and Africa since June 2016. Her 35-year naval career is marked by firsts. In 2014, Howard became the first female four-star admiral and took over as vice chief of naval operations. Two years later, President Barack Obama

chose her to head Europe and Africa, making her the first female four-star admiral to command operational forces.

She was the first black woman to achieve two-star admiral rank, as well as the first female graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy promoted to flag officer. In 1999, Howard was the first African-American woman to command a U.S. naval warship when she took the helm of the USS Rushmore.

Early in her career, a group of female officers on an aircraft carrier asked her to confront a new captain for acting chauvinistic toward them, Howard told an audience in March at an event at Allied JFC Naples.

Howard feared that calling out a superior for sexism could be career suicide. But she confronted him, and he agreed to bring aboard a team to train the crew and himself, she said.

"I thought if I didn't have the courage to talk to the captain, how will I ever have the courage to lead sailors into battle," Howard said.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Woman uses car without permission

**CT** MONROE — A Connecticut woman has been charged with stealing tools from a home and using the homeowners' car without permission while they were on a nine-day vacation.

The Connecticut Post reported that the couple left their Monroe home and dog in the care of a 26-year-old woman they met through a local animal hospital. Police said the woman allowed Jennifer Spezzano, 37, of Waterbury, to stay in the home and use the couple's car. Police charged Spezzano with third-degree larceny, conspiracy and using a vehicle without permission. Police alleged they later determined that Spezzano had sold the tools to pawn shops.

### 'Selfie' paramedic gets 6 months in jail

**FL** FORT WALTON BEACH — A former Florida paramedic who took "selfies" with incapacitated victims in ambulances has been sentenced to six months in jail and three years of probation.

The News-Herald reported that Christopher Wimmer, 35, was ordered to perform 100 hours of community service and pay court costs. In addition, he was prohibited from working as a paramedic while serving his sentence.

Wimmer and another Okaloosa County paramedic were investigated and charged last year after allegations surfaced that they were engaged in a "selfie war" and had compromising photos on their phones of patients under their care while they were in ambulances. The investigation uncovered 41 patients who were photographed or recorded without their consent.

### Pilot sentenced for drug-smuggling flight

**TX** AUSTIN — A Texas pilot whose suspicious flight pattern from Oregon to Arizona drew law enforcement attention must serve three years in federal prison for the drug-smuggling trip.

Wayne Douglas Brunet, 65, pleaded guilty in June to possession with intent to distribute marijuana. The Austin man, who was sentenced Friday, must forfeit his 1969 Piper Comanche and pay a \$5,000 fine.

Investigators said Brunet had more than 200 pounds of marijuana in the plane when he was arrested in March after a late-night landing at Llano Municipal Airport, about 70 miles northwest of Austin.

### Funeral home offers tattered flag disposal

**NH** MANCHESTER — A funeral home in New Hampshire is offering people a safe place to dispose of their tattered American flags.

Inspired by a similar program at a Connecticut facility, Phaneuf Funeral Homes and Crematorium in Manchester has put out a drop box so flags can get a "respectful retirement." The funeral home said the federal flag code calls for damaged or soiled flags to be destroyed in a dignified manner, and the funeral home is ensuring they receive a "proper ceremonial incineration."

The funeral home also is offering families of deceased veterans the chance to be cremated with one of the flags.

### Fire station damaged by blaze in kitchen

**ME** PORTLAND — The Maine Fire Marshal's Office is investigating a fire that

caused damage at a Portland fire station.

Deputy Chief Mike Nixon said the fire broke out about 6 p.m. Sunday. The Portland Press Herald reported it caused damage to the kitchen and smoke damage throughout the building. Nixon said no one was in the building when the fire started as crews were responding to reports of a dryer fire down the street.

### Crooked, thick, wet road stripes criticized

**AK** KETCHIKAN — An Alaska mayor said he has never seen anything like the yellow striping that the state recently painted onto Tongass Highway.

Ketchikan Gateway Borough Mayor David Landis said the lines are crooked, thick and wet, leaving cars spotted with paint.

The Ketchikan Daily News reported Saturday that the state Department of Transportation tried out a new striping system on the highway. Department spokeswoman Meadow Bailey said the state is having some challenges with the system and is working to improve the process. Bailey said the state will not repaint the yellow lines.

### Group aims to shame litter bugs with signs

**IN** LAFAYETTE — A group that oversees several Indiana nature areas is taking a snarky approach to fighting littering problems.

The NICHES Land Trust has started putting up signs at its Lafayette-area sites with the question "Why are you littering?" across the top. Below are answers: "I am a jerk," "I don't care about natural areas," "Mommy still cleans up after me" and "All of the above."

Trust Executive Director Gus Nyberg said the anti-litter-

ing culture has become frayed, and the group is trying to turn that around. He said anyone offended by the signs is probably part of the littering problem.

### Former coroner faces charges, questions

**ID** BOISE — The former Valley County coroner is facing two misdemeanor charges because prosecutors say he used the county's truck for personal transportation. Some officials also are raising questions about where he stored human remains when he stopped using the designated county morgue for a few months earlier this year.

The Idaho Statesman reported former coroner Nathan Hess has declined to answer questions about the matter.

Hess resigned May 18.

Hess, whose arraignment is set for Oct. 3, told the Idaho Statesman he was hindered in the job by a lack of training or help from county officials.

### Young children are rescued from gun safe

**MI** STERLING HEIGHTS — Firefighters used heavy-duty cutting tools to free two young children who accidentally locked themselves inside a gun safe at a suburban Detroit home.

The Detroit Free Press reported the safe had recently been delivered and was in the garage of the Sterling Heights home. Fire Chief Chris Martin said the children, ages 3 and 4, apparently crawled inside the safe Sunday afternoon and it locked. The newspaper said instructions and the combination were in the safe with the children. It took about 12 minutes to free them using a hydraulic spreader and saws.

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# Frustrated NBA players weigh options

Associated Press

MIAMI — NBA teams are going to do something.

What, no one is exactly sure yet.

The first practice of the year awaited most NBA teams Tuesday — and as if the task of getting ready for a regular season that starts in three weeks wasn't daunting enough, coaches and players all over the league are trying to decide how to best use their platform and continue striving for what they hope is positive change in society.

President Donald Trump's recent comments on protests by NFL players, particularly those visible during the playing of the national anthem before games, as well as rescinding the Golden State Warriors' traditional championship invitation to the White House, have struck a clear chord in the NBA.

"We will support our guys if they choose to decide to fight this in a coherent, connected way," Miami Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "But absolutely, we all feel discouraged just by the divisiveness right now. And we would all just love to see a lot more equality and inclusion."

League-wide media days on Monday were dominated by Trump talk — and while frustrations are clear, solutions are not.

"The only thing I can do is forgive him and love him throughout the process," Char-

lotte center Dwight Howard said. "And we all have to do that. That's the only way we're going to get better. I know a lot of things in history have caused certain groups and certain races to hate other races, but we have to find a way to put all of that aside."

He was kinder than most.

At their media days Monday, Washington Wizards guard Bradley Beal said Trump is "a clown" and Toronto Raptors guard DeMar DeRozan called the president a "so-called leader." That comes on the heels of Cleveland star LeBron James tweeting over the weekend that Trump is a "bum," doing so after Trump said he was taking away Warriors star Stephen Curry's invite to visit the White House.

"We know where the power in the country is and we know the racism that exists," said San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich, a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy and the next U.S. Olympic men's basketball coach. "But it's gone beyond that, to the point where I'm more worried about, and more confused by, the people around our president. These are intelligent people who know exactly what's going on, who are basically very negative about his actions, but now it seems that it's condoned."

Trump said NFL players who kneel for the national anthem should be fired, and his usage of the term "son of a bitch" to

describe protesting players also angered many in the NBA.

There is a rule in the NBA saying players, coaches and trainers must stand for the national anthem in a dignified manner. But if the Memphis Grizzlies decide they want to see what happens should anyone defy that mandate, their coach will be right there with them.

"No gray area today," David Fizdale said. "I'll be on my knee."

It seems unlikely that NBA teams will kneel for anthems; many players said Monday that they wouldn't do so. Chicago guard Kris Dunn said the matter was of particular importance to him, since he has a close friend serving in Afghanistan with the U.S. Army.

"The power is in the hands of the players, the NFL players and the same for the NBA players, even though our NBA stars have a much better relationship with owners and with the league than the NFL," Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard said. "If NFL players decide 'We're not playing,' if each player gets behind each other and says 'We're not playing,' then what? When you truly make a stand, then what?"

Thunder forward Paul George said he hopes the NBA does something as a league to show unity in drawing attention to the issue of police and race.

## Hoops coaches arrested in corruption case

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Four assistant basketball coaches from Arizona, Auburn, Southern California and Oklahoma State were among those arrested on federal corruption charges Tuesday after they were caught taking thousands of dollars in bribes to steer NBA-destined college stars toward certain sports agents and financial advisers, authorities said.

The coaches were identified as Chuck Person of Auburn, Emanuel Richardson of Arizona, Tony Bland of USC and Lamont Evans of Oklahoma State. Among the six others charged were managers, financial advisers and the director of global sports marketing at Adidas.

"The picture of college basketball painted by the charges

is not a pretty one," said acting Manhattan U.S. Attorney Joon H. Kim at a news conference. "Coaches at some of the nation's top programs taking cash bribes, managers and advisers circling blue-chip prospects like coyotes, and employees of a global sportswear company funneling cash to families of high school recruits.

Since 2015, the FBI has been investigating the criminal influence of money on coaches and players in the NCAA, federal authorities said.

"For the 10 charged men, the madness of college basketball went well beyond the Big Dance in March," Kim said. "Month after month, the defendants exploited the hoop dreams of student-athletes around the country, allegedly treating them as little more than opportunities to enrich

themselves through bribery and fraud schemes."

Investigators said the coaches have "enormous influence" over their players and how they select their agents and other advisers when they leave college and enter the NBA.

Person, the associate head coach at Auburn, was selected by the Indiana Pacers as the fourth overall pick in the 1986 NBA Draft. He played for five NBA teams in 13 seasons.

Among allegations in court papers were claims that Adidas execute James Gatto and others made and concealed bribe payments to high school athletes and their families at least three times this year in exchange for a commitment by the players to play basketball for two universities not identified in court papers.

Investigators said the deals

caused universities to provide athletic scholarships to students who should have been ineligible because of the bribes.

In one instance, the complaint said, Gatto and others funneled \$100,000 to the family of a high school basketball player to gain his commitment to play at a Division I school whose athletic programs are sponsored by Adidas and to sign with Adidas once he became a professional. It said they paid another high school athlete \$150,000 for a similar commitment.

No students were identified in court papers by name.

The court papers portrayed the universities as victims, saying the students and their family members conspired with coaches and apparel company executives to obtain athletic-based financial aid from universities through fraud.

# Prescott, Dallas pull away from Cards

Associated Press

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Dak Prescott knelt with his teammates and team owner before the game, flipped head over heels for a touchdown in the first half and capped his night with a 37-yard TD pass that proved to be the game winner.

The Dallas Cowboys erased last week's ugly memory on Monday night, with their young quarterback leading the way.

"He just kept battling," Dallas coach Jason Garrett said.

"He kept making good decisions. Obviously he made some good plays, big-time throws, but as much as anything else he's got an amazing spirit and our players follow him."

The Cowboys (2-1), bouncing back from a 42-17 pummeling in Denver, began the game kneeling at midfield with owner

Jerry Jones in a show of unity that followed widespread protests across the NFL of critical comments by President Donald Trump over the weekend.

After they knelt, they stood and walked to the sideline and stood for the anthem.

"We planned and it was executed that we would go out and kneel," Jones said, "and basically make the statement regarding the need for unity and the need for equality."

Prescott, 13-for-18 passing for 183 yards, broke a 14-14 tie with a 37-yard scoring pass to Brice Butler with 11:52 to play.

"I immediately scrambled and when I scrambled Brice took the right angle and the right initiative going to the back of the end zone," Prescott said.

Arizona, with a spectacular catch by Larry Fitzgerald for

24 yards on a third-and-18 play, moved downfield but the drive stalled. Phil Dawson's 37-yard field goal cut the lead to 21-17 with 6:35 left.

Ezekiel Elliott, who gained 8 yards on nine carries against Denver and drew criticism for not hustling after a couple of late interceptions, was bottled up much of the game, but still gained 80 yards on 22 attempts, 30 on one play. He ran 8 yards for the final Cowboys touchdown.

The Cardinals (1-2), in their home opener, got a big game from Fitzgerald, who caught 13 passes for 149 yards, in the process moving ahead of Marvin Harrison into eighth in career receiving yards. The 13 receptions tied a career high.

"That's Fitz. It's Monday night," Arizona coach Bruce

Arians said. "He's a money player. It was a great performance by him. It's a shame we couldn't play better around him."

Carson Palmer had a big first half, completed 15 of 18 passes for 145 yards and finished 29-for-48 for 325 yards and two scores. He was sacked six times, a career-high three by DeMarcus Lawrence.

The Cardinals dominated the first half statistically, but were deadlocked with the Cowboys at 7-7. Arizona had a 152-57 advantage in yards and dominated time of possession 19:34 to 9:41.

Arizona took the opening kickoff and went 82 yards in eight plays. Palmer was 5-for-5 on the drive, capped by a 25-yard touchdown pass to Jaron Brown.

## NFL hopes to move past Trump-induced gestures

Associated Press

A day later, there were signs that some around the NFL already were ready to move on from their anthem-related gestures prodded by President Donald Trump's profane broadside against such actions.

Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger, a two-time Super Bowl champion, said Monday — after a sleepless night — that he regretted that most of his team remained in the tunnel during "The Star-Spangled Banner" instead of appearing on the sideline before a 23-17 loss at Chicago on Sunday.

"Moving forward, we will be on the field," Roethlisberger said. "What we do when we're out there is yet to be determined."

Other players and coaches indicated that their teams would discuss as a group how they want to proceed next weekend during the anthem.

But there seemed to be a sentiment that fewer people would participate.

"I would anticipate maybe

this one was stronger this week than it's ever been, because (Trump's) comments affected people on such a different level," Atlanta Falcons coach Dan Quinn said. "We haven't talked about it further as a team, but my initial response would be it would settle more back down."

More than 200 NFL players made some form of gesture at games on Sunday — many kneeling or sitting on the bench — in reaction to comments and tweets by Trump, who called on team owners to fire players who followed former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick's lead by kneeling during the national anthem. Some owners locked arms with players.

Trump's unprompted raising of this issue began with a speech Friday night in Alabama, where he told a crowd of supporters, "Wouldn't you love to see one of these NFL owners when somebody disrespects our flag to say, 'Get that son of a bitch off the field right now, out, he's fired, he's fired?'"

He then followed up with a series of inflammatory tweets over the weekend and into Monday, even drawing other sports such as the NBA and NASCAR into the fray.

"After this first week," Quinn said, "I think people wanted to come out loud and clear and say, 'This isn't cool.'"

Kaepernick, who no longer has a job with any NFL team, began kneeling during the anthem in the preseason a year ago to make a statement about social inequality and police treatment of blacks in the United States.

A handful of players had carried on what Kaepernick started; a half-dozen engaged in some form of protest last week.

"It certainly is our hope that people stand during the national anthem, but we also respect their right to make a personal statement or expression of their personal beliefs," NFL spokesman Joe Lockhart said in a conference call with reporters on Monday.

"In the first couple weeks of this year, it was a handful of peo-

ple expressing themselves. We defended their right to do that," Lockhart said. "There were a whole lot of people this weekend doing that, and the only thing that has changed were some comments from someone who lives in Washington."

As for what happens now, Miami Dolphins guard Jermon Bushrod hoped the discussion and attention generated by the past few days can lead to some good.

"You can't do something and have no action behind it. Now we have to figure out what's the next step," said Bushrod, who stood arm-in-arm with teammates for the anthem before Miami's loss to the New York Jets.

"The tone and the delivery of everything from the President was kind of divisive. It angered a lot of people," Bushrod said. "We're just trying to bring awareness to something that needs to be cleared up. Nobody is trying to disrespect the flag or the military. It's a tough situation where we feel we needed to come together."

# Judge sets rookie record for homers

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Aaron Judge circled the bases for the 50th time this season, breaking Mark McGwire's major league record for home runs by a rookie, and returned to the Yankees dugout to exchange handshakes, hugs and high-fives with excited teammates.

And then, he walked up the steps and back onto the field.

Embarrassed by the attention, he managed four short waves with his right hand before heading back to the bench just three seconds later.

"They kind of told me: 'You got to go out there. You got to go out there,'" he would later recall. "First curtain call. I hope it was a good one."

Judge had his second straight two-homer game in an 11-3 rout of Kansas City on Monday. On an unseasonably warm autumn afternoon, the Yankees won for the 16th time in 22 games dur-

ing a playoff push that earned no worse than a wild card.

The 6-foot-7, 25-year-old slugger tied McGwire's 1987 mark with a two-run drive to right-center off Jakob Junis (8-3) in the third inning that put New York ahead 3-0, driving a 93 mph high fastball 389 feet about a half-dozen rows into the right field seats.

Judge pulled a hanging changeup 408 feet for a parabolic solo shot that bounced to the left of the visiting bullpen against Trevor Cahill in the seventh. It was his fourth multihomer game this month and seventh this year.

He was hitting .329 with 30 homers and 66 RBIs when he won the All-Star Home Run Derby.

"The way he started, I thought he was going to hit 60, 70," Yankees catcher Gary Sanchez said through a translator.

But as if zapped by Kryptonite, Judge slumped to a .179

average with seven homers and 16 RBIs from the start of the second half through Aug. 31, a whiff-a-thon that included 67 strikeouts in 44 games.

"I saw frustration," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said. "I didn't see him getting down. I never saw him stop working. I never saw him not believe in himself."

Judge revived to hit .307 with 13 homers and 26 RBIs in a stunning September, leaving him with a .283 average, 108 RBIs, an AL-leading 120 walks and a big league-high 203 strikeouts.

"Everybody's going to say, oh, the strikeouts. But I think if I'm an owner or a GM, I'll take 300 strikeouts with the year he's putting up," Yankees third baseman Todd Frazier said.

Judge has homered against every AL opponent and his total is second in the majors to the 57 of Miami's Giancarlo Stanton. Judge is a contender for

AL MVP, along with Houston's Jose Altuve and Cleveland's Jose Ramirez.

"I'd rather be in a good position in the playoffs and holding up a World Series trophy than an AL MVP trophy," Judge said.

Boston's Fred Lynn in 1975 and Seattle's Ichiro Suzuki in 2001 are the only winners of the rookie and MVP awards in the same year.

"We can honestly say that we're in this spot because of him," CC Sabathia said. "I think that's what an MVP is."

Judge has 90-degree power, pulling 22 homers to left, hitting 13 to center and sending 15 opposite-field shots to right, according to MLB's Statcast. His teammates never let him get down during the big slump.

"They kept pushing me, kept motivating me: 'Hey, man, you're going to get out of this. It's baseball. Keep doing your thing,'" he remembered.

## MLB roundup

### Darvish delivers for Dodgers in victory over Padres

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — If there were any lingering questions about whether Yu Darvish is ready for the playoffs, he answered them Monday night.

Darvish pitched two-hit ball over seven innings and the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the San Diego Padres 9-3 to reach 100 wins for the first time in 43 years.

Los Angeles acquired Darvish from Texas just before the July 31 trade deadline to help bolster a rotation that has designs on a World Series title. He's been up and down since arriving, but the Dodgers don't have to wonder about his confidence heading into the postseason.

"That's continued to build over his last few starts," manager Dave Roberts said. "We've talked about what it takes to win

a championship and what we believe is it starts with starting pitching and Yu is a big part of where we're trying to go. For him to get that confidence, I think we can certainly be much more optimistic."

Logan Forsythe went 3-for-3 with a home run and four RBIs.

**Cubs 10, Cardinals 2:** Addison Russell hit a three-run double in the first inning, then made a food run for a fan in enemy territory while visiting Chicago moved within a victory of clinching its second straight NL Central title.

Russell helped the Cubs get to starter Luke Weaver (7-2) early, then made some friends out of rival fans. After diving into the stands chasing a foul ball down the third-base line and spilling a fan's tray of chips, Russell emerged from the dugout a few innings later with a

plate of nachos and delivered it to the fan. Russell stopped to take a selfie before heading back to play shortstop.

**Blue Jays 6, Red Sox 4:** Josh Donaldson homered and drove in three runs, powering Toronto past AL East-leading host Boston.

**White Sox 4, Angels 2:** James Shields tossed seven strong innings and Nicky Delmonico hit a two-run double as host Chicago damaged Los Angeles' slim playoff hopes.

**Astros 11, Rangers 2:** Marwin Gonzalez had four hits and three RBIs as AL West champion Houston put host Texas on the brink of elimination in the wild-card race.

**Giants 9, Diamondbacks 2:** Nick Hundley hit a three-run homer, Johnny Cueto pitched well over six innings and visiting San Francisco beat resting

Arizona.

**Nationals 3, Phillies 1:** Michael Taylor homered and A.J. Cole allowed one run while pitching into the sixth inning as Washington defeated host Philadelphia.

**Marlins 5, Rockies 4:** Miguel Rojas had a career-high four RBIs and the Miami Marlins held off Colorado, cutting the host Rockies' lead for the second NL wild card to 1½ games over Milwaukee.

**Mariners 7, Athletics 1:** Mitch Haniger homered twice and Felix Hernandez won for the first time in more than two months as host Seattle defeated Oakland.

**Braves 9-2, Mets 2-3:** Seth Lugo pitched two-hit ball over six innings and Travis d'Arnaud hit a record-setting homer for host New York in the nightcap of a doubleheader split.