

# STARS AND STRIPES®

Sunday, September 2, 2018

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Change of command in Afghanistan

BY J.P. LAWRENCE

*Stars and Stripes*

KABUL, Afghanistan — Army Gen. Austin Scott Miller, incoming commander of American and NATO troops in Afghanistan, pledged during a change-of-command ceremony Sunday in Kabul that he would ensure Afghanistan would not become a safe haven for terrorists.

Miller took over from Army Gen. John Nicholson, who after more than two years in charge, had been the U.S.' longest-serving commander of the 17-year war.

Miller assumed command amid reported U.S. efforts to negotiate peace with a resilient Taliban insurgency and as senior military officials have said the Pentagon does not expect an endless large-scale military mission in the country.

"We must ensure terrorists can never use Afghanistan as a safe haven," Miller told American, NATO and Afghan officials who attended the ceremony.

He takes command of NATO forces in Afghanistan as the country suffers from continued warfare, a devastating drought and concerns over upcoming parliamentary and presidential elections.

Afghanistan saw a glimpse of peace when the government and the Taliban announced overlapping cease-fires in June, prompting displays nationwide of insur-

gent and government soldiers hugging and taking selfies.

A second cease-fire offered by Afghan President Ashraf Ghani has yet to be accepted by the Taliban and fighting continues throughout the country. Districts in Faryab and Badakhshan provinces remain under militant pressure, and local officials warn of increasing Taliban threats near major cities such as Kabul and Gardez. The Afghan military, meanwhile, announced 102 special forces operations and 11 airstrikes in 11 provinces Saturday.

A decorated special operations soldier, Miller previously oversaw the U.S.' most secretive commando units as chief of Joint Special Operations Command. The West Point graduate participated in combat operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia and Bosnia, according to an official biography. When he was a captain, he led a contingent of the elite Delta Force during the Battle of Mogadishu in 1993.

During his confirmation hearing, Miller said he didn't foresee an end to the conflict anytime soon. "I can't guarantee you any timeline or an end date," he told the Senate Armed Services Committee earlier in June, adding that withdrawal from Afghanistan could allow extremist groups such as Islamic State to strengthen and to carry out attacks on U.S. soil.

Miller warned lawmakers that withdraw-

ing from Afghanistan likely would mirror the pullout of U.S. troops from Iraq in 2011 — which helped lead to the rise of ISIS.

The Pentagon does not expect an enduring large military commitment in Afghanistan, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, told reporters Aug. 28.

In recent weeks, the Taliban have launched several high-profile attacks on cities across Afghanistan, leading to the deaths of hundreds of security personnel, destruction in the key city of Ghazni and the capture of several small military bases in northern Afghanistan.

During farewell remarks, Nicholson asked the Taliban to declare a cease-fire and pursue peace talks.

"It's time for this war in Afghanistan to end," Nicholson said Sunday. "The time for peace is now."

Since last summer, Nicholson has overseen the Trump administration's new strategy for Afghanistan that includes pouring thousands of additional troops into the country, increasing its bombing campaign against the Taliban and pressuring Pakistan to assist in security efforts.

In his speech, Nicholson noted successes such as the growth of the Afghan Air Force and the buildup of the Afghan commando units from 30 companies to 45 in the two years since he took command.

## Okinawan officials halt base work for third time

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE  
AND AYA ICHIHASHI

*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Okinawa prefectural officials have followed through on promises once again to revoke permits related to the construction of a coastal runway that would facilitate the relocation and closure of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma.

The announcement was made Friday afternoon by Okinawa vice governor Kiichiro Jahana. Prefectural officials based the move on allegations that Tokyo

violated environmental regulations regarding an endangered species of coral found at the site, deviated from construction plans and withheld vital information.

Japanese broadcaster NHK said the Japanese government would be forced to hold off on landfill plans for the runway until a decision is made by the courts. The Ryukyu Shimpo newspaper reported a ruling could take between a few weeks and a few months.

Jahana, who said Tokyo's plans for the site will cause environmental calamity, called

the construction "illegal."

"It is suitable to revoke the approval on landfill," he said. "We will do our best to stop the ... construction."

This is the third time the administration either has revoked permitting for the project or has sued to stop it. It largely is seen as a last-ditch effort after two previous attempts were struck down in Japanese courts.

Officials from the Okinawa Defense Bureau, which represents Japan's Defense Ministry on the island, said they had just received the letter outlining the prefectural government's

plans at 3:30 p.m. Friday afternoon and couldn't comment until they had time to digest its contents.

In the past, Japanese officials threatened to punish Okinawa for unnecessarily delaying the project by seeking compensation. Jahana said he was not worried because he felt the prefecture's legal argument for revoking the permit was sound, the Ryukyu Shimpo reported.

"We strongly believed the withdrawal is an appropriate action and there will be no compensation," he said.

# US trains with Southeast Asia nations to search, seize ships

BY SETH ROBSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

The Navy, the Coast Guard and personnel from eight partner nations are training to visit, board, search and seize vessels in Southeast Asia.

The 17th annual South East Asia Cooperation and Training, or SEACAT, exercise, which began Aug. 27 and runs through Friday, involves sailors and coast guardsmen from Bangladesh, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Three vessels will take part in 15 boarding operations at sea along with 100 personnel from

multiple nations, the Navy's Singapore-based Task Force 73 commander, Rear Adm. Joey Tynch, told reporters, according to a transcript of a telephone news conference Thursday.

Tynch declined to identify the location of the at-sea training; however, Singapore's Straits Times newspaper said it was taking place in the South China Sea, the Straits of Malacca and Singapore.

A Navy statement said the exercise would incorporate increasingly complex maritime interdiction scenarios to emphasize "real world, real time" practice.

"Based on the situation, ships

and aircrafts from participating navies and coast guards including the U.S. Navy's P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft will investigate and conduct at-sea boardings as necessary," the statement said.

Personnel will practice sharing information from maritime operations centers in Brunei, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, Tynch said.

"We all need to share the same maritime picture so that we can identify and enforce the same maritime laws. Rules-based order requires maritime domain awareness," he said.

## Bases being outfitted with salvaged gym equipment

BY J.P. LAWRENCE  
*Stars and Stripes*

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan — Dom Baumgartner's part to play in the Afghanistan War effort has him hunting through mounds of rusty scraps and breathing a fine layer of desert dust on a sizzling August afternoon.

Baumgartner, who oversees Morale, Welfare and Recreation for troops in Afghanistan, arrived after receiving a key piece of intelligence — someone left a dirty-but-functional elliptical machine in the Bagram scrapyard.

There are about 3,500 more troops deploying as part of the Trump administration's strategy, and while they'll have all the guns and ammunition they'll need, their bases lack the amenities they had in years past.

Essential equipment, such as secure communications gear, is now being flown in to bases that haven't been used in years.

Squat racks and video games? Those come more slowly. An order for gym equipment from 2016 arrived at Bagram just a few weeks ago, Baumgartner said.

More new equipment is expected to be arriving in the country in the fall, but until then, Baumgartner has resorted to an ad hoc scrounging process, finding one set of dumbbells here, digging up an ab machine there.

He's had some luck finding exercise equipment at the FRE yard, a scrapyard officially known as the Forward Retrograde Element.

At the yard, Mark McRae directed Baumgartner to the rumored elliptical machine.

Baumgartner then drove to a welding shop at Bagram. He recently found a spin bike with a broken seat and had another bike seat welded onto it. He said he might be able to send that spin bike to soldiers on an outlying base.

## Amputee soldier takes oath in dive tank

(Birmingham) Alabama  
Media Group

If you were looking for Huntsville soldier Michael Brown on Friday, you needed to search 30 feet under water in the U.S. Space & Rocket Center's dive tank.

Staff Sgt. Brown, a combat veteran and wounded warrior based at Redstone Arsenal, went to the bottom of the tank to take his oath of re-enlistment from fellow diver Lt. Col. Gary Blount.

Brown chose the center's Underwater Astronaut Trainer "as a fitting location to marry

his two passions, the Army and scuba diving," the Army said in a news release. It's where Brown loves to be, and that's something of a surprise to him and everyone else.

"In 2007, two years after joining the army, my left leg was blown off below the knee," Brown explained after surfacing. It happened in Mosul, Iraq, 33 days after he deployed during Operation Iraqi Freedom. An RKG-3 anti-tank grenade hit Brown, and he was evacuated to Walter Reed Army Hospital.

Brown got a specially de-

signed prosthetic leg and also something to think about. "I was taught to scuba dive as part of adaptive rehabilitation — to think outside the box about what my new normal could be," Brown said Friday.

Brown is currently an aide to the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command's command sergeant major. His re-enlistment adds seven more years to his Army career, and that will take him to 20 years of service and retirement eligibility.

## Fla. theme parks offer deals for military

*The Fayetteville (N.C.) Observer*

Universal Orlando Resort is offering active-duty and retired troops and their families a four-for-one deal through the rest of the year.

The vacation destination

with three theme parks — Universal Studios Florida, Islands of Adventure and Volcano Bay — will allow military members to purchase four-day tickets for the price of one-day tickets, officials said. Two- and three-park options also are available.

The tickets must be redeemed by the end of the year.

The offer is available with valid identification at Leisure Travel Service Offices and other locations. For more information, go to [www.Universal-Orlando.com/military](http://www.Universal-Orlando.com/military).

## 4 missing after Colo. boat crash

Associated Press

MOABI REGIONAL PARK, Calif. — Four people are missing after two boats crashed and sunk on the Colorado River, ejecting more than a dozen people who were aboard, authorities said Sunday.

A recreational boat carrying 10 people and another vessel with six people aboard collided head-on Saturday night on a well-traveled stretch of the river that marks the border between California and Arizona, the Mohave County Sheriff's Office said in a statement.

Both boats sank and passing boaters pulled crash victims from the water. One person was found in critical condition and was flown to a hospital in Las Vegas, while nine others were taken to local hospitals by ambulance, authorities said.

The crash occurred between two popular marinas and near Moabi Regional Park, a well-traveled recreation area crowded with people enjoying the Labor Day weekend.

Helicopters were deployed immediately after the crash was reported and couldn't locate the missing. Rescuers had to call off the search until Sunday morning because it was too dangerous to put divers into the river after dark. The river's water can range from shallow to 30 feet deep.

Authorities reviewed the shoreline after daybreak, but four people were still missing, said Eric Sherwin, spokesman for the San Bernardino County Fire District in California.

The cause of the crash is being investigated by Mohave County authorities, Sherwin said. He said low light conditions undoubtedly played a role.

None of the boaters was wearing a life vest when the collision occurred, said Anita Mortensen, a spokeswoman for the Mohave County Sheriff's Office.

# McCain being buried in private ceremony at Naval Academy

The Washington Post

The late Sen. John McCain was being buried Sunday in a private ceremony at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., bringing to a close five days of events honoring the late Arizona Republican.

McCain, who died Aug. 25 of brain cancer at age 81, was the son and grandson of four-star admirals and a 1958 graduate of the Naval Academy. He endured more than five years of torture and imprisonment as a POW in Vietnam.

The private memorial service was to be attended by McCain's family, close friends, former classmates and military leaders. Among the expected speakers were longtime friend Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., retired Army general and former CIA Director David Petraeus and the senator's son,

Jack McCain.

After the ceremony, McCain was to be laid to rest next to his Naval Academy classmate and friend Adm. Charles Larson.

On Saturday, official Washington — with the notable exception of President Donald Trump — gathered at Washington National Cathedral for a memorial service that featured tributes by such speakers as former presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama.

McCain's legacy of bipartisanship and the deterioration of civility under Trump were themes mentioned by many of those who eulogized him, with some of the sharpest words aimed at the president coming from the senator's daughter, Meghan McCain.

In an appearance Sunday morning on CNN's "State of the Union," former Sen. Joseph

Lieberman, I-Conn., one of McCain's closest friends in the Senate, said the burial service was "going to be hard because it's the last farewell."

"Religiously, I feel their body is there, but their soul is on to the next world," said Lieberman, who eulogized McCain on Saturday. "But I'm left with incredible memories. I say goodbye, but I'll thank God I knew a man like John McCain." Graham also recounted his memories of McCain during an appearance on the show. He told host Dana Bash that the main takeaway from the past week and from McCain's life is service to a cause greater than oneself.

"If you're thinking of public service, pick a cause worthy of a good fight and, above all else, when you make a mistake, admit it," Graham said.

## Racist calls mock black Fla. candidate

Associated Press

Racist phone calls mocking Florida's black Democratic gubernatorial nominee appear to be from a white supremacist podcast that has also taken credit for inflammatory robocalls in Iowa and California.

In the recorded calls, someone falsely identifying himself as Andrew Gillum speaks in a racist, old-time minstrel dialect while asking voters for their support. The calls, which, according to the Gillum campaign, started Friday, are said to be paid for by The Road to Power — an Idaho-based video podcast.

"This is reprehensible — and could only have come from someone with intentions to fuel hatred and seek publicity," Gillum campaign spokesman Geoff Burgan said in a statement. Burgan said it's unclear how widespread the calls have been but that he's only heard reports of them in Tallahassee, where Gillum is mayor.

Gillum's Republican opponent, U.S. Rep. Ron DeSantis, is not affiliated with the podcast behind the calls. His campaign spokesman, Stephen Lawson, called them "absolutely appalling and disgusting."

"And, hopefully, whoever is behind this has to answer for this despicable action," Lawson said in a statement.

Florida's gubernatorial contest was racially charged even before the robocalls. During an appearance on Fox News after Tuesday's primaries, DeSantis called Gillum — who is seeking to become Florida's first black governor — an "articulate" candidate, but he said, "The last thing we need to do is to monkey this up by trying to embrace a socialist agenda with huge tax increases and bankrupting this state." DeSantis' campaign later said the congressman was referring to Gillum's policies, not himself personally.

In Iowa, anti-immigrant ro-

bocalls from The Road to Power began Tuesday — two days after the funeral of Mollie Tibbetts, a University of Iowa student who authorities say was abducted and killed by a man believed to be in the U.S. illegally.

In California, The Road to Power took credit for anti-Semitic robocalls targeting Democratic U.S. Rep. Mark DeSaulnier in July. DeSaulnier's Republican opponent, John Fitzgerald, a Holocaust denier, wrote a July 11 post on his campaign website condemning the calls, saying they came from "a despicable, hate-filled person/organization who openly degrades ethnic groups in their podcasts and website. ..."

The podcast has been linked to a man who, according to police in the Idaho city of Sandpoint, was responsible for distributing racist CDs in a high school parking lot in December. That man, identified by police as Scott D. Rhodes, denied distributing the CDs.

# Car bomb kills at least 6 in Somalia

Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya — At least six people were killed, including two children, when a suicide bomber detonated an explosives-laden vehicle outside a district headquarters in Somalia's capital, authorities said Sunday.

Capt. Mohamed Hussein said the bomber tried to speed through a checkpoint but was stopped by security forces, prompting him to detonate the vehicle near the gate of Howlwadag district headquarters.

The three soldiers who stopped the truck were killed instantly and the three others killed were civilians, said the Mogadishu mayor's spokesman, Salah Hassan Omar.

Fourteen people, including six children, needed intensive care, said the Aamin Ambulance service. Among the wounded was deputy district commissioner Ibrah Hassan Matan.

Many victims were students at a nearby Islamic school. Officials warned there could be more casualties as the blast brought down nearby buildings including a mosque.

"I saw bodies strewn on the

ground after the explosion before the ambulances and the paramedics reached the scene and the whole scene was very ugly," witness Halima Mohamed said.

The attacker "literally failed to achieve their goal of inflicting maximum casualties," police captain Hussein said, accusing the al-Qaida-linked extremist group al-Shabab of carrying out the attack.

Al-Shabab later claimed responsibility for the explosion, which shattered a period of calm in seaside Mogadishu. The Somalia-based al-Shabab often targets the capital with bombings, including a truck bombing in October that left at least 512 people dead.

Somali troops are meant to take over the Horn of Africa nation's security in the coming years from an African Union force but concerns about their readiness remain high. The U.N. Security Council recently voted to delay the reduction of troops in the AU force from October to February and the target date to hand over security to Somali forces to December 2021.

# Russians rally against change in pension age

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russians held rallies throughout the country Sunday to protest a government plan to raise the age for receiving state pensions.

Several thousand people gathered in central Moscow for a protest organized by the Communist Party. Another Moscow protest organized by the A Just Russia party attracted about 1,500 people.

Other demonstrations were reported in at least a dozen cities throughout the country including Vladivostok in the Far East, Simferopol in Russia-annexed Crimea and Omsk, Barnaul and Novosibirsk in Siberia.

No arrests were reported immediately. The rallies had official sanction.

The plan was introduced in June and has passed first-reading in the lower house of parliament. But widespread opposition has persisted, and President Vladimir Putin's approval ratings in polls have fallen notably since the plan was announced.

In an unusual televised address to the nation, Putin last week conceded that the pension age for women will be raised only to 60 rather than the pro-

posed 63. The current pension age for women is 55.

The plan would retain the raising of the men's pension age from 60 to 65, implementing the steps up over five years.

Younger opponents of the move fear that keeping older people in the workforce longer will shrink their own job opportunities, while older people complain that they may not live long enough to collect significant benefits.

Russia's average life expectancy was notoriously low in the 1990s, but has risen in recent years and is now about 67 for men and 78 for women.

The pension reform was announced in June on the eve of the opening of the Russia-hosted soccer World Cup, and many critics saw the timing as an attempt to introduce a controversial idea while Russians were distracted by the tournament's excitement.

But Putin's polling numbers dropped significantly. A weekly survey by the Fund For Public Opinion found 61 percent saying they fully or mostly trusted Putin in mid-August, down from 75 percent just before the pension reform proposal.

# Mexican city tells police to ignore most public sex

Associated Press

GUADALAJARA, Mexico — It's now less risky to get frisky in public in Guadalajara.

Mexico's second-largest city has made it harder to police sexual activity in places such as parks, alleys, entertainment venues and cars by ordering cops to look the other way most of the time.

Proponents say the change protects the publicly amorous from being shaken down by bribe-hungry officers, a common practice, while critics worry that it could encourage lewd acts in full view of people

just going about their day.

Under the modification to the Policing and Good Government Code passed in August, public sexual acts continue to be an administrative offense, sanctioned by a fine or brief detention. The change is that officers can intervene in such dalliances only if they've received a specific complaint from a third party who feels uncomfortable.

"The only thing we added is that for police to detain that couple, a citizens' request is required," said Guadalupe Morfin, a city councilor who proposed the measure. She argued that it would discourage

police corruption, refocus officers on more serious offenses and not lead to any increase in lewd behavior.

But Livier Martinez, of the conservative National Action Party, the only council member to vote nay, argued that there are other ways to tackle corruption. It flouts Jalisco state civil code articles on morality and exhibitionism, she added, and may leave police unsure what they can and cannot do in such cases.

There are no reliable statistics to say how common public sex actually is, in part because such cases almost never make

it into the judicial system. Instead, they're settled on the street by bribing cops to avoid a trip to the station.

What are very common, however, are stories of police demanding bribes over more tame behavior.

"Sometimes they're not even having sex in public, just kissing or things like that. But (police) do it to get money, to take advantage of this," said Andrea Quintana, a student in Guadalajara. "So I think it's good that now they have to have proof that someone was really doing something bad to have to take them away."

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Man in wheelchair joins dance crew

**LA** NEW ORLEANS — A man in a wheelchair joined the all-male New Orleans dance crew called the 610 Stompers.

Jason Homer tried out for the group that describes itself as ordinary men with “extraordinary moves.” Local media reported he got word Sept. 26 that he had landed a coveted spot on the dance team.

“What we look for is guys with heart,” said one of the Stompers, Mont Creamer, in a text message to NOLA.com/The Times-Picayune. “And this guy is a Stomper with or without the chair.”

Homer lost the use of his legs in an industrial accident three years ago.

## Patrol: Texting driver rammes police car

**IA** AUDUBON — The Iowa State Patrol said a driver distracted by texting rammes into the back of a trooper’s patrol car.

The Des Moines Register reported that the patrol reported the crash Friday in a Facebook post. The post shows a photo of the patrol car with heavy back-end damage.

The patrol said the crash happened Aug. 8 when a young driver in Audubon hit the parked patrol car in a residential neighborhood near the trooper’s home. Investigators said the driver had been texting and driving when the crash happened.

The driver of the car was ticketed and will pay for damages.

## 2 arrested at drug house with drive-thru

**FL** OCALA — Authorities said they arrested

two people who were running a drug business out of a mobile home with its own walk-up and drive-thru window.

An Ocala police news release said McKenzie Dobbs, 20, and William Parrish Jr., 32, were arrested recently following several overdoses connected to the house. Both face multiple charges related to the possession and sale of fentanyl, a powerful opioid painkiller.

Police said officers collected drugs, paraphernalia and cash while executing a search warrant at the home. Investigators alleged that Dobbs and Parrish had been selling drugs through a kitchen window.

## Smallest city in state doubling population

**ND** RUSO — North Dakota’s smallest incorporated city was on the verge of dissolving after the death of its longtime mayor, but now it’s rebounding.

The Minot Daily News reported the McLean County community of Ruso expects to soon experience a doubling of its population — from two residents to four.

State law said it takes a minimum of three residents for a community to be incorporated.

The city discovered Greg Schmaltz qualifies as a resident because he has a Ruso mailbox and checks on his animals daily. Schmaltz and his wife, Michelle, plan to move to Ruso later this year. He’s expected to become mayor Thursday.

## Lab: Powder seized is sugar, not fentanyl

**NC** WILMINGTON — A North Carolina sheriff’s office thought it made a huge drug bust, seizing 13 pounds of suspected fentanyl worth \$2 million on the street.

The powder was found in a

home along with other drugs and paraphernalia. A field test indicated it was the powerful opioid, justifying a host of charges against three suspects.

Most of those charges soon evaporated when a state lab concluded that whatever the powder was, it wasn’t fentanyl.

The sheriff’s office then sent the powder to a private lab. New Hanover sheriff’s Lt. Jerry Brewer told WECT-TV that the powder seized in July includes no illicit ingredients, and is nothing more than “a combination of simple and complex carbohydrates.” In other words, sugar.

## Cops: Wife killed spouse with eye drops

**SC** CLOVER — Authorities said a woman was charged with murder on suspicion of killing her husband by putting eye drops into his water for several days.

York County deputies said Lana Clayton, 52, confessed to investigators after an autopsy found a high amount of tetrahydrozoline in her husband’s body. The chemical is found in over-the-counter eye drops such as Visine.

Authorities said Stephen Clayton, 64, was found dead in the couple’s Clover home July 21. No motive was given for the suspected poisoning.

## Body camera video captures fawn rescue

**OR** EUGENE — An animal welfare officer in Oregon is getting attention after her rescue of a fawn was captured on her body-worn camera.

The Eugene Police Department released a video and photo of Officer Shawni McLaughlin freeing a terrified fawn that got stuck in a backyard fence. In the video, McLaughlin wraps the

fawn’s head in a towel and lifts it from between two narrow fence posts as she talks to the deer.

The fawn lies on the ground for a few seconds after being freed, apparently not aware it can walk.

## Volunteers assist in return of lost dog

**MO** KANSAS CITY — A dog that disappeared from his southern California home and mysteriously wound up in Missouri was reunited with his owner with the help of a Pony Express-style chain of cross-county volunteers.

The Kansas City Star reported that the Bernese mountain dog, named Topper, was taken to the city shelter in July after a Kansas City police officer suffered a “minor bite” during an arrest. Topper’s microchip led staff to his owner, Tom Huffman, of El Cajon, Calif.

He didn’t have the money to travel to Kansas City, so volunteers stepped up to help Topper make the 1,500-mile trip home.

## Pair are accused of destroying sculpture

**PA** HARRISBURG — Museum officials said a mother and daughter who were viewing an exhibit featuring children’s playthings transformed into art destroyed a sculpture 10 minutes into the grand opening.

PennLive.com reported the women are accused of damaging the exhibit’s main piece, called “Fair and Square,” at the Susquehanna Art Museum in Harrisburg last month.

The sculpture featured a life-sized swing set that was welded to resemble the scales of justice. Museum director Anne Schwab said the women thought they could play on the swings and pulled them down.

From wire reports

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## US Open

# Federer gets past Kyrgios

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The most pivotal part of Roger Federer's U.S. Open victory over Nick Kyrgios, both men agreed, came all of 17 minutes in, when the 20-time major champion was serving at 3-all, love-40 and got out of the jam.

The most spectacular part? That came, anyone who saw it surely would agree, much later. It was the on-a-full-sprint, drop-shot-retrieving, flick-from-a-few-inches-off-the-ground, forehand-around-the-net-post, jaw-dropping winner that Federer conjured up a few games from the conclusion of the 6-4, 6-1, 7-5 tour de force in the third round Saturday.

"A special one, no doubt about it," declared Federer, who ranked the shot among his greatest.

The No. 2-seeded Federer moved into the fourth round at Flushing Meadows for the 17th consecutive appearance. He's won five titles at the U.S. Open, although the last arrived a decade ago.

While he keeps on keeping on, there are all sorts of seeds tumbling from both singles draws.

It's most pronounced in the women's field, where 10 of the top 13 seeds already are gone as Week 1 comes to an end. No. 4 Angelique Kerber and No. 5 Petra Kvitova — owners of a combined five Grand Slam titles — exited Saturday, both at Louis Armstrong Stadium, the same new arena where No. 1 Simona Halep and No. 2 Caroline Wozniacki were beaten earlier in the tournament.

Five-time major champion Maria Sharapova eliminated No. 10 Jelena Ostapenko 6-3, 6-2. No. 6 Caroline Garcia and No. 13 Kiki Bertens also lost, while 2017 runner-up Madison Keys came back to beat Aleksandra Krunic 4-6, 6-1, 6-2.

Two seeded men lost in the afternoon to unseeded opponents: No. 4 Alexander Zverev and No. 17 Lucas Pouille. Zverev still has never made the fourth round in visits to New York after being beaten 6-7 (1), 6-4, 6-1, 6-3 by Philipp Kohlschreiber in an all-German matchup, while Joao Sousa defeated Pouille 7-6 (5), 4-6, 7-6 (4), 7-6 (5). Kohlschreiber now meets 2014 runner-up Kei Nishikori, who got past No. 13 Diego Schwartzman 6-4, 6-4, 5-7, 6-1.

At night, 2014 U.S. Open title winner Marin Cilic erased a two-set deficit and edged 19-year-old Alex de Minaur 4-6, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, 7-5. Hours earlier, 13-time major champion Novak Djokovic easily beat No. 26 Richard Gasquet 6-2, 6-3, 6-3 under the lights in Ashe.

## College football

# Alabama routs Louisville

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Alabama doesn't rebuild. The Crimson Tide simply reload.

College Football Playoff hero Tua Tagovailoa threw for two touchdowns and ran for a third in his first college start, helping top-ranked and defending national champion Alabama open the season with a 51-14 rout of Louisville on Saturday night.

Essentially ending the debate — at least for now — about whether he or Jalen Hurts should be the Crimson Tide's No. 1 quarterback, Tagovailoa scored on a 9-yard run while also completing 12 of 16 passes for 227 yards without an interception.

"I thought there were a lot of things we did well and I also think there are a lot of things we need to fix," Alabama coach Nick Saban said.

"The effort of our players ... they executed very well on a lot of plays," Saban added. "I'm really proud of the way they came out and played and executed in the game. But I also think it's pretty obvious we need to do a lot of things better."

Although Tagovailoa came off the bench to lead Alabama to a come-from-behind victory over Georgia in the CFP championship game last January, Saban provided no public indication of the starter against Louisville until Tagovailoa trotted onto the field following the opening kickoff.

Saban said the decision to begin with the sophomore from Ewa Beach, Hawaii, was made earlier in the week, but the plan was to play Hurts, too. Saban said that's also his intention moving forward.

"I talked to the quarterbacks before practice on Thursday and they both knew exactly what the situation was going to be in the game," he said.

"I wanted Tua to play somewhere in the neighborhood of 20 plays and then we were going to put Jalen in the game. It didn't matter when it was or what the score was," he added. "We wanted Tua to get the experience of running the two-minute (offense) so we put him back in there before the half. We're going to continue to have both these guys be weapons for us on offense because I think they can."

Saban grew a bit testy when he was asked by ESPN right after the win what he had learned about his quarterbacks. He said he liked both players and decried questions that he perceived were designed to draw critical comments about one of them.

Hurts threw for 2,081 yards and 17 touchdowns while rushing for 855 yards and eight more TDs a year ago. He was 26-2 as a starter over the past two seasons.

Saban maintained throughout preseason camp that Alabama was fortunate to have

two quality quarterbacks and tried deflect attention from the QB debate by talking about the challenge the Crimson Tide faces in revamping a defense that lost eight starters from last season.

Tagovailoa was sacked on the game's second play, but pretty much had his way against the Louisville defense from there.

Jerry Jeudy had TD receptions of 11 and 25 yards, and Josh Jacobs scored on an 18-yard run and a 77-yard kickoff return for the Crimson Tide.

Hurts played two series in the first half and re-entered the game in the third quarter with the defending national champions up 41-7.

Jawon Pass, who is replacing 2016 Heisman Trophy winner Lamar Jackson for Louisville, completed 20 of 39 passes for 252 yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions, including TDs of 12 yards to Kemari Averett and 8 yards to Tutu Atwell. The redshirt sophomore's second interception was return 45 yards for a touchdown by Shyheim Carter.

The Cardinals (0-1) fell to 0-4 all-time against teams ranked No. 1.

"The biggest thing we have to do from this is learn," coach Bobby Petrino said, adding that's one reason he played Pass the entire game. "It was never a question of taking him out of the game. He needed to stay in and get all those reps. He's going to have a great career here. This was a hard opener, there's no question about that."

**He did some good things, too:** Hurts directed a field goal drive in the third quarter, finishing 5-of-9 passing for 70 yards and no interceptions. He rushed for 9 yards on 3 attempts. Redshirt freshman Mac Jones played much of the fourth quarter for the Crimson Tide.

**Poll implications:** Despite having a bunch of new faces on defense, Alabama entered the season opener No. 1 in the AP Top 25 for the third straight year. Louisville was clearly overmatched, however some — if not most — could be attributed to how well the Crimson Tide played in improving to 12-0 in season openers under Saban.

## The takeaway

**Louisville:** It was a tough night for the Cardinals, who were limited to just 16 yards rushing while being outgained 517 yards to 268. The good news is it looks as if they have a chance to be as good throwing the ball as they were during the Jackson era.

**Alabama:** The Crimson Tide scored on offense, defense and special teams, showing that despite having to replace 12 starters, Saban has more than enough talent to make a run at Alabama's sixth national title in 10 years.

# Raiders trade Mack; RG3 staying put

Associated Press

RG3 is staying put while AJ is switching coasts.

Robert Griffin III, the 2012 NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year whose career has been disrupted by injuries since that season, remained with Baltimore as the Ravens cut their roster to the league maximum of 53 on Saturday. He'll likely be the third-string quarterback behind Joe Flacco and first-round draft pick Lamar Jackson, but he still has a job.

AJ McCarron, who signed with Buffalo as a free agent after four years as a backup QB in Cincinnati, was traded by the Bills to Oakland. The Raiders closed a deal with Chicago to send star pass rusher Khalil Mack to the Bears for a slew of draft picks, including two first-rounders.

Among the intriguing players let go

were Dallas kicker Dan Bailey, Chiefs cornerback David Amerson, Ravens receiver Breshad Perriman, Bengals defensive end Michael Johnson, Texans receiver Braxton Miller and guard Davis Quessenberry, and Steelers quarterback Landry Jones.

**Quarterbacks.** Griffin signed a one-year deal with the Ravens in April after sitting out the entire 2017 season. He was Washington's first-round choice in 2012, second overall, and led the Redskins to the playoffs that year before things went sour.

Another survivor thus far: Paxton Lynch in Denver. The 2016 first-rounder got through cutdown day despite slipping to third on the depth chart this summer.

In Pittsburgh, Josh Dobbs' impressive preseason cost Jones his job. The Steelers kept Dobbs and rookie Mason Rudolph as the primary backups to Ben Roethlisberger.

**Busy Gruden.** The Raiders waived Martavis Bryant just over four months after trading a third-round pick to Pittsburgh for the receiver.

The decision to cut Bryant came on a busy day for coach Jon Gruden, who dealt holdout pass rusher Mack to the Bears.

McCarron came from Buffalo for a 2019 fifth-round pick. He was both injured and inconsistent for the Bills in preseason and fell behind first-rounder Josh Allen and Nathan Peterman.

**The kicker.** Dallas waived Bailey, the second-most accurate kicker in NFL history. Bailey was Dallas' kicker for seven seasons and made at least 93 percent of his kicks in three of his first five years. Bailey is at 88.2 percent on field goals for his career (186 of 211), second to Justin Tucker's 90.2 percent. Bailey is Dallas' career leader in field goals.

## Top 25 roundup

# Penn State holds off Appalachian St. in OT

Associated Press

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — Amani Oruwariye intercepted Zac Thomas' pass in the end zone and No. 10 Penn State held on to beat Appalachian State 45-38 in overtime Saturday, exactly 11 years after the Mountaineers stunned Michigan in one of the biggest upsets in college football history.

Miles Sanders ran for 91 yards and two touchdowns, including the go-ahead score in overtime for the Nittany Lions in the opener for both teams. But Penn State let a 31-17 lead evaporate when Appalachian State scored on three straight possessions over 5:53 in the fourth quarter.

Penn State's Trace McSorley, who completed 21 of 36 passes for 230 yards and ran for two scores, led a tying drive that ended with a 15-yard touchdown pass to KJ Hamler with 42 seconds left.

In 2007, it was No. 5. Michigan fighting for its life at home against a Division I-AA team and when Corey Lynch blocked Michigan's field-goal attempt it sealed a 34-32 win.

**No. 12 Notre Dame 24, No. 14 Michigan 17:** Brandon Wimbush connected on a long touchdown pass to help Notre Dame jump out to a big first-half lead, Te'von Coney and the defense made it stand with a late takeaway, and the Fighting Irish beat visiting Michigan as the rivalry returned after a three-year hiatus.

**No. 5 Ohio State 77, Oregon State 31:** With coach Urban Meyer serving a suspension, new starting quarterback Dwayne Haskins Jr. had a record-setting day, throwing five touchdown passes to help host Ohio State rout Oregon State.

**Maryland 34, No. 23 Texas 29:** Host Maryland emerged from a trying offseason with an emotionally charged upset of Texas, shaking off a lengthy weather delay to provide Matt Canada a satisfying victory in his debut at the Terrapins' interim coach.

**No. 2 Clemson 48, Furman 7:** Freshman Trevor Lawrence threw three touchdown passes and host Clemson scored on all five of his drives in the season-opening rout.

**No. 3 Georgia 45, Austin**

**Peay 0:** Jake Fromm threw two scoring passes while sharing time with freshman Justin Fields and host Georgia showed off some new firepower.

**No. 7 Oklahoma 63, Florida Atlantic 14:** Kyler Murray, taking over for Heisman Trophy winner Baker Mayfield, passed for 209 yards and two touchdowns to lead host Oklahoma.

**No. 9 Auburn 21, No. 6 Washington 16:** Jatarvious Whitlow ran 10 yards for a touchdown with 6:15 remaining and the Auburn defense came through at the end at Atlanta.

**No. 15 Southern California 43, UNLV 21:** JT Daniels, the second freshman to start at quarterback in a season opener for host Southern California, threw for 282 yards, and had a 43-yard touchdown pass to Amon-Ra St. Brown.

**No. 16 TCU 55, Southern U. 7:** Shawn Robinson threw three touchdown passes and ran for two more scores while playing only the first half in TCU's opening blowout.

**No. 17 West Virginia 40, Tennessee 14:** Will Grier got his Heisman Trophy campaign off to an impressive start,

throwing for 429 yards and five touchdowns to help West Virginia rout Tennessee in a game delayed for more than an hour at halftime due to lightning.

**No. 18 Mississippi State 63, Stephen F. Austin 6:** Keytaon Thompson threw for 364 yards and five touchdowns, host Mississippi State had 17 tackles for a loss and the 18th-ranked Bulldogs cruised in their opener.

**No. 22 Boise State 56, Troy 20:** Brett Rypien passed for 305 yards and four touchdowns, and Sean Modster had 167 yards receiving, to lead visiting Boise State.

**No. 24 Oregon 58, Bowling Green 24:** Justin Herbert threw for five touchdowns and ran for another score for host Oregon.

**Hawaii 59, Navy 41:** Cole McDonald threw for 428 yards and six touchdowns on 30-of-41 passing and Hawaii used a quick start to beat Navy.

The Rainbow Warriors (2-0) scored on their first six possessions and racked up 522 total yards, while the Midshipmen (0-1) dropped their first season opener since 2014.

# Dodgers move into tie atop NL West

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Matt Kemp has had a lot of big hits for the Dodgers in his career. Traded back to them this season, he's regaining his rhythm offensively in the heat of a pennant race.

Kemp slugged a go-ahead, two-strike, three-run homer in the eighth inning, lifting Los Angeles to a 3-2 victory over Arizona and a tie atop the NL West with the Diamondbacks on Saturday night.

"Coming into September, we know what every game means," he said. "I don't think they're going to quit, so we got to be just as good."

With the sellout crowd of 52,394 on its feet chanting "Let's go Dodgers," Kemp took two quick strikes from Archie Bradley before launching his 19th homer into center field for a 3-2 lead.

"That was really fun to watch," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said.

Arizona manager Torey Lovullo said, "These kinds of games is what makes baseball great."

Kemp is hitting .310 with five runs, two homers and six RBIs in 13 games since Aug. 15.

Justin Turner got the rally going with one out in the inning. He singled for the Dodgers' first hit since his double in the third. Manny Machado followed with a 10-pitch walk by Bradley to set up Kemp.

"Biggest hit of the year so far," starter Clayton Kershaw said of Kemp's homer. "J.T. fights off a tough pitch to shoot it through the hole and Manny fights off that at-bat. It was an awesome comeback win for us." Bradley (4-5) was leading the National League in holds with 31 before Kemp's homer.

"I threw a really bad curveball to a really good hitter," Bradley said. "It was supposed to be down and away but I left it over the plate."

Kenta Maeda (8-8) worked a perfect eighth. Kenley Jansen

put the tying run on in the ninth. The All-Star closer gave up a two-out double to Nick Ahmed before Ketel Marte popped up to second, giving Jansen his 34th save in 38 opportunities. Enrique Hernandez got the first out of the ninth on a stellar play. He made a diving stop on David Peralta's grounder and threw from his back to first baseman Cody Bellinger just in time.

"You can plug him anywhere and he's going to make big plays," Lovullo said.

Neither team has won by more than two runs in the first three homer-heavy games of the series. Turner's homer leading off the eighth gave the Dodgers a 3-2 victory on Friday. The D'Backs won the opener 3-1 on Peralta's three-run shot.

"This is a tough loss, but we didn't lose a playoff game," Bradley said. "One game does not define this team."

Arizona led 2-0 after Eduardo Escobar and pinch-hitter Christian Walker led off innings by homering on first pitches from Kershaw.

Escobar went deep to left field in the second. Walker, hitting for starter Patrick Corbin, landed one in left-center for his second career pinch-hit homer off Kershaw.

In between Arizona's two homers, Kershaw retired 12 consecutive batters. The left-hander gave up two runs and four hits in seven innings, struck out three and walked none.

The Dodgers struck out 13 times, including six in a row over the fifth, sixth and seventh innings. Corbin retired the side in the fifth, striking out the last two batters. Yoshihisa Hirano relieved him and struck out the side in the sixth, while Brad Ziegler struck out pinch-hitter Bellinger to open the seventh.

Corbin allowed three hits, struck out seven and walked one. The Dodgers have struck out 31 times in Corbin's four starts against them this season and he's limited hitters to a .125 average.

## MLB roundup

# Bryant has 2 hits in return from DL; Cubs beat Phillies

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Kyle Hendricks pitched six strong innings, Javier Baez notched his NL-leading 99th RBI and Kris Bryant doubled and had two hits in his return from the disabled list to lead the Chicago Cubs past the Philadelphia Phillies 7-1 on Saturday night.

Ian Happ homered and Baez had three hits for the NL Central-leading Cubs, who have won nine of 11.

Bryant had been sidelined since July 23 with left shoulder inflammation. The 2016 NL MVP doubled and scored in the third and singled in the eighth.

Nick Williams had two hits and an RBI for the Phillies, who fell three games behind first-place Atlanta in the NL East.

**Mariners 8, Athletics 7:** James Paxton returned from the disabled list to strike out 10 batters over five innings as visiting Seattle held off Oakland.

Jean Segura had a two-run single in the fifth, an inning after he was hit by a pitch. He finished with three hits, helping Seattle pull within 4½ games of Oakland for the second AL wild card.

**Yankees 2, Tigers 1:** Masahiro Tanaka pitched seven strong innings for his first win since July, rookie Gleyber Torres hit a two-run homer and host New York beat Detroit.

The Yankees got only two hits, but won for the 11th time in 15 games. New York has the second-best record in the majors, behind AL East-leading Boston.

**Astros 7, Angels 3:** Tyler White hit a go-ahead two-run double in a five-run eighth inning, Alex Bregman homered and Houston beat visiting Los Angeles.

**Red Sox 6, White Sox 1:** Eduardo Rodriguez struck out

12 in 5<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings in his return from an ankle injury, leading Boston past host Chicago.

**Rays 5, Indians 3:** Blake Snell moved into a tie for the major league lead with his 17th win as visiting Tampa Bay beat Cleveland.

**Braves 5, Pirates 3:** At Atlanta, Freddie Freeman hit a tiebreaking, RBI double in the four-run eighth inning, and the NL East-leading Braves rallied to snap a three-game skid.

**Nationals 5, Brewers 4:** Juan Soto's two-run single highlighted a four-run eighth inning, and Washington rallied past visiting Milwaukee.

**Rockies 4, Padres 2:** D.J. LeMahieu homered and Jon Gray pitched six solid innings as Colorado snapped host San Diego's season-high four-game winning streak.

**Mets 2, Giants 1 (11):** Steven Matz struck out a career-high 11 batters, and visiting New York went on to beat San Francisco.

**Reds 4, Cardinals 0:** Luis Castillo and two relievers combined on a two-hitter to lead Cincinnati past host St. Louis.

**Rangers 7, Twins 4:** At Arlington, Texas, Adrian Beltre hit his 470th career homer after 23-year-old slugger Nomar Mazara and Ronald Guzman went deep, helping the Rangers stop a five-game losing streak with a win over Minnesota.

**Royals 5, Orioles 4:** Whit Merrifield hit a two-run homer with one out in the ninth inning, giving host Kansas City a back-and-forth victory over Baltimore.

**Marlins 6, Blue Jays 3:** Martin Prado hit a bases-clearing double in his first game in three weeks, Wei-Yin Chen pitched eight strong innings and Miami beat visiting Toronto.