

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## US might make more use of Greek bases

By JOHN VANDIVER

*Stars and Stripes*

The United States may increase drills and rotate more troops through bases in Greece, which offers logistic support for U.S. forces within range of hot spots in northern Africa and the eastern Mediterranean, America's top military leader said.

Greek officials have raised the possibility of expanding U.S. access to those bases, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Joseph Dunford told reporters in Athens on Tuesday.

"[They] made a general overture saying they would be willing to consider that, and I certainly was enthusiastic

about the possibility," Dunford told the Pentagon's internal news service.

Dunford said U.S. European Command and the State Department would work with their Greek counterparts on the plans.

Increased access to Greek bases would enable more troops to rotate through for joint training initiatives and could possibly lead to enhanced intelligence and reconnaissance efforts. Unrest in nearby Libya and Syria are persistent security concerns.

The U.S. military has long operated out of bases in Greece, including Naval Support Activity in Souda Bay and Greece's Larissa Air Force Base, where the U.S. operates MQ-9 Reaper

drones.

"We ... have taken advantage of Souda Bay — it's a critical piece of infrastructure here in the region — and Greece has also been open to expanding training opportunities for our forces that are stationed in Europe, in particular for U.S. Army units to do training with helicopters," Dunford told DOD News.

While the U.S. wants to do more in Greece, Washington isn't looking to establish a large base for a lot of forward-based troops.

Instead, the idea is for a light military presence with troops rotating in and out, Dunford said.

"If you look at geography and you look at current operations

in Libya and current operations in Syria; you look at potential operations in the eastern Mediterranean, the opportunities here are pretty significant," he said.

Dunford's visit to Greece comes as NATO is increasingly emphasizing security concerns along its southern doorstep. The alliance recently set up a counterterrorism intelligence center in Naples to monitor regional threats. Increased Russian naval activity in the Mediterranean Sea also has the alliance's attention.

"They (the Greeks) are looking around, and the U.S. is still the best partner available to them," a military official told DOD News.

## USS Michael Murphy joins Kakadu 2018 Down Under

By CHRISTIAN LOPEZ

*Stars and Stripes*

The USS Michael Murphy is in Australia for 16 days of drills aimed at fostering and strengthening security and humanitarian partnerships throughout the Indo-Pacific region.

The Hawaii-based destroyer entered Australian waters just in time for Friday's opening ceremony in Darwin. Kakadu 2018 is expected to involve more than 23 ships and submarines, 21 aircraft and about 3,000 personnel from more than 27 nations.

It's the second time the United States has participated in the biennial event, which the Royal Australian Navy says is the country's largest naval exercise.

Other participants include India and China, which is join-

ing Kakadu for the first time, according to an Australia Broadcasting Corp. report.

The U.S. disinvited the communist state to July's Rim of the Pacific naval drills over Beijing's occupation and militarization of disputed islets in the South China Sea.

The 7th Fleet commander, Vice Adm. Phil Sawyer, who attended Friday's ceremony, said Kakadu demonstrates Australia's commitment to freedom of navigation in the Pacific.

"Hosting a massive, multilateral exercise like this shows the Royal Australian Navy's strong leadership and commitment to providing security in a free and open Indo-Pacific," he said in a Navy statement issued Friday.

The 7th Fleet visited Australia earlier this year to celebrate the 75th anniversary of its formation in Brisbane.

## Trump mulls shutdown GOP wants to avoid before elections

*Bloomberg*

President Donald Trump is asking advisers whether it would be good politics to provoke an October government shutdown fight over money for his border wall even though Republicans in Congress say a closure before the midterm elections in November would backfire.

Republican leaders thought they had persuaded Trump weeks ago to delay any such confrontation until later in the year, but the president raised the prospect of an earlier shutdown in conversations in recent days with at least three aides and outside advisers, according to people familiar with the matter.

Trump has long said a "good shutdown" may be needed to get his full \$23 billion in funds for a border wall. House Speaker Paul Ryan, of Wisconsin, Senate

Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, of Kentucky, and other conservative lawmakers have told the president in recent weeks that a shutdown before the election is a bad idea, according to another person familiar with the matter.

With Democrats threatening to end the GOP majority in the House and several Senate seats for both parties in play in November, Republicans see a smoother government funding process as a way to show voters they can govern. Along the way they have ignored Trump's request for deep cuts to government programs as they seek bipartisan cooperation.

In an interview with the Daily Caller published Wednesday, Trump backed away from a shutdown. He said, "I don't see even myself or anybody else closing down the country right now."

# Midshipman to be court-martialed

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Naval Academy's superintendent is moving ahead with the court-martial of a midshipman accused of distributing illegal drugs.

Vice Adm. Ted Carter, the academy's superintendent, told the academy's Board of Visitors Tuesday that an arraignment for Midshipman Zachary Williams is scheduled for Monday at the Washington Navy Yard.

"The U.S. Naval Academy referred Midshipman Williams' case to a general court-martial following an Article 32 preliminary hearing into the matter," said Cmdr. David McKinney, an academy spokesman, refer-

ring to a hearing that determines whether the accused will go to trial in a court-martial. "The referred charges allege Midshipman Williams engaged in the wrongful possession, distribution, introduction and use of controlled substances."

A trial has been set for March. Prosecutors have said Williams sold and used drugs while going to concerts with other midshipmen, and they have contended his actions were particularly offensive because he introduced drugs to the academy. Drugs named in the case include cocaine, ecstasy, mushrooms and ketamine, which is an animal tranquilizer that can cause hallucinations.

Antoinette O'Neill, Williams'

civilian attorney who is retired from the Air Force and is a lawyer with Patriots Law Group, declined to comment Monday.

Williams is accused of acquiring the drugs on the dark web, where people search for drugs through secret web browsers and buy them using encrypted channels, code names and virtual currencies.

The charges are based on an investigation by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service that began in November. As a result of the investigation, six midshipmen were kicked out of the academy for using illegal substances and five were disciplined for drug-related violations.

## Naval Academy allows ponytails for females

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Naval Academy is allowing female midshipmen to wear ponytails and other longer hairstyles.

The policy was announced during a Board of Visitors meeting Tuesday.

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson first announced the Navy's changes in July, saying they make the Navy more inclusive.

The academy conducted its own review before accepting the changes.

The regulation allows braids and ponytails in service, working and physical training uniforms. The width or diameter of hair buns can't extend beyond the width of the back of the head. The academy is stipulating that ponytails cannot be seen from the front.

Vice Adm. Ted Carter, the superintendent, said the incoming class is one of the academy's most diverse. He said the class of 2022 is about 28 percent female.

# Soldier killed in apparent insider attack recalled as leader, mentor

By J.P. LAWRENCE

Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy Bolyard, who was killed in an apparent insider attack on Monday, had a calm demeanor and a gift for seeing what needed to be done in a difficult situation, fellow soldiers said.

Nathan Metcalf, who served under Bolyard in 4th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, recalled an awful moment in Baghdad, where the unit was deployed from 2007 to 2009. An explosion rocked the guard tower Metcalf and his troops were manning and a firefight broke out.

Bolyard was among the troops, making sure everything was all right, Metcalf recalled. When the shooting stopped, Bolyard's first sergeant's mind seemed to shift gears, looking ahead to what came next.

"The action is over now, Sgt. Metcalf. I will give you the steps you need to follow to take care of your soldiers," Metcalf

remembers Bolyard saying.

Bolyard, 42, of Thornton, W.Va., died of wounds he suffered in the Monday attack in Logar province. He received six Bronze Star Medals — including two for valor — during a 24-year career and seven deployments, the Defense Department said.

He was a senior noncommissioned officer in 3rd Squadron, 1st Security Force Assistance Brigade, at Fort Benning, Ga., according to a Pentagon statement. The unit deployed to Afghanistan earlier this year to train the country's security forces.

Bolyard was shot by an Afghan policeman after a meeting at Camp Maiwand, an Afghan installation, a U.S. military spokesman said. The police officer fled the scene immediately after the shooting but was captured and detained by the security forces.

Army 1st Sgt. Brad Lee, another soldier who served with Bolyard in 2014, said Bolyard had mentored him as he rose

through the ranks.

"He genuinely cared. I truly loved the man. He was one of my heroes," he said.

Bolyard was always calm, even when delivering bad news, Lee told Stars and Stripes.

"When my battalion got extended in 2014, he walked up and asked how I was doing," he said. "Told me there were some things he couldn't share, but he thought it would be OK, and then he put his hand on my shoulder and said to make sure my boys were ready."

Bolyard's son, Preston, said on Facebook that his father had been planning to return from deployment and retire in less than two months.

The elder Bolyard arrived in Afghanistan in February.

Bolyard, the sixth U.S. fatality in Afghanistan in 2018, is the second U.S. servicemember killed in a suspected insider attack this year. It follows an incident in July in Uruzgan province that left Army Cpl. Joseph Maciel dead and two other servicemembers wounded.

## Academy to begin officer aptitude push

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Naval Academy's superintendent says a new initiative to identify midshipmen who lack the overall aptitude to be naval officers will be implemented throughout the school this year.

Vice Adm. Ted Carter discussed the initiative before the academy's Board of Visitors Tuesday. Carter said he started a pilot program at the academy last spring because he was concerned that a small number of midshipmen didn't measure up in some areas.

In addition to academic and physical requirements, midshipmen are supposed to demonstrate aptitude in leadership, character, professionalism, teamwork and judgment.

Carter said the new initiative aims to find shortcomings in midshipmen much earlier on so they can be addressed before students enter their last year.

From The Associated Press



# High court pick stresses independence

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh repeatedly stressed the importance of judicial independence on the second day of his confirmation hearing Wednesday as he faced questioning from senators, including Democrats who fear he would be President Donald Trump's man on the high court. But he declined to address whether Trump could be subpoenaed or could pardon himself.

Pressed by Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley, a Republican, on whether he would be independent from the president who nominated him, Kavanaugh responded, "No one is above the law."

But asked later by the panel's

top Democrat, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, of California, whether a president can be required to respond to a subpoena, Kavanaugh said, "I can't give you an answer on that hypothetical question."

The Supreme Court has never answered that question, and it is among the most important at Kavanaugh's hearing since Trump could face a subpoena in special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation.

Kavanaugh also refused to say whether he thinks a president can pardon himself — or provide a pardon in exchange for a bribe or pardon someone on the understanding that the person wouldn't testify against the president.

Day two of Kavanaugh's confirmation hearings began much

as the first with protesters often interrupting proceedings. More than a dozen protesters were hauled out of the hearing room.

The hearing has strong political overtones ahead of the November election, but Democrats lack the votes to block Kavanaugh's confirmation. They fear Kavanaugh will push the court to the right on abortion, guns and other issues, and that he will side with Trump in cases stemming from Mueller's investigation of Trump's 2016 campaign.

Addressing some of those concerns, Kavanaugh said that "the first thing that makes a good judge is independence, not being swayed by political or public pressure." He cited historic court cases including *Brown v. Board of Education* that deseg-

regated schools and *U.S. v. Nixon* that compelled the president to turn over the Watergate tapes — a ruling that Kavanaugh had previously questioned.

Asked about court precedents, the importance of previously settled cases including the landmark 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision that ensures access to abortion, Kavanaugh said, "Respect for precedent is important. ... Precedent is rooted right in the Constitution itself."

Trump nominated Kavanaugh, 53, to fill the seat of retired Justice Anthony Kennedy. The change could make the court more conservative on a range of issues. Republicans hope to confirm Kavanaugh in time for the first day of the new Supreme Court term, Oct. 1.

## New book paints picture of unhinged Trump

New York Daily News

President Donald Trump's top aides believe he's an "idiot" with the understanding of a "fifth- or sixth-grader" and have gone to great lengths to avert disaster as they struggle with the commander in chief's impulsive and dangerous personality, according to a new book by legendary journalist Bob Woodward.

The veteran Washington Post journalist paints a damning portrait of a West Wing dominated by a man whose closest advisers go out of their way to circumvent the commander in chief — going so far as to ignore orders, hide information and even swipe papers from his desk.

White House chief of staff John Kelly called Trump "unhinged" and an "idiot," according to Woodward. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis describes the president as having the understanding of "a fifth- or sixth-grader."

Trump's former personal lawyer John Dowd describes the President as "a f---ing liar," telling Trump he would end up in an "orange jump suit" if he testified to special counsel Robert

### White House pushes back on claims

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — An incendiary tell-all book by a reporter who helped bring down President Richard Nixon set off a firestorm in the White House, with its descriptions of current and former aides calling President Donald Trump an "idiot" and a "liar," disparaging his judgment and claiming they plucked papers off his desk to prevent him from withdrawing from a pair of trade agreements.

The book by Washington Post journalist Bob Woodward is the latest to throw the Trump administration into damage-control mode with explosive anecdotes and concerns about the commander in chief.

Trump decried the quotes and stories in the book on Twitter as "frauds, a con on the public,"

adding that Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and chief of staff John Kelly had denied uttering quoted criticisms of the president in the book.

And he denied accounts in the book that senior aides snatched sensitive documents off his desk to keep him from making impulsive decisions.

Later Tuesday, Trump was back on Twitter denying the book's claim that he had called Attorney General Jeff Sessions "mentally retarded" and "a dumb southerner."

The White House, in a statement from press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders, dismissed the book as "nothing more than fabricated stories, many by former disgruntled employees, told to make the President look bad."

Trump did not speak to Woodward until after the book's manuscript was completed.

ert Mueller.

"He's an idiot. It's pointless to try to convince him of anything. He's gone off the rails. We're in crazytown," Kelly is quoted as saying at a staff meeting. "I don't even know why any of us are here. This is the worst job I've ever had."

Woodward, 75, offers an unprecedented look at the inner workings of the Trump adminis-

tration and top officials' efforts to deal with a president who has little understanding of world affairs or how government works in the 448-page book, "Fear: Trump in the White House," which is due out next week and was obtained Tuesday by The Washington Post.

Woodward, a Pulitzer prize-winning journalist known for his reporting on the Nixon-era

Watergate scandal, based his account of the current administration on "hundreds of hours of interviews with firsthand sources, meeting notes, personal diaries, files and documents."

The book describes "an administrative coup d'etat" and a "nervous breakdown" within the executive branch, as senior aides sought to keep information from the president.

# Tropical Storm Gordon kills child in Fla.

Associated Press

DAUPHIN ISLAND, Ala. — Tropical Storm Gordon never became a hurricane but it was deadly all the same, killing a child by blowing a tree onto a mobile home as it made landfall. The storm later weakened into a depression on Wednesday but remained dangerous, dumping rain, spawning tornadoes and kicking up heavy surf in its wake.

The National Hurricane Center said Gordon was weakening on a path into Arkansas after striking the coast at 70 mph, just shy of hurricane strength, near Pascagoula, Miss. The remnants will likely cause flash

flooding across parts of seven states and as far north as Iowa in the coming days.

The storm was going out swinging. Forecasters said radar spotted possible tornados spun off by the storm overnight in southern Alabama and the Florida panhandle, and more were possible through Wednesday night in Mississippi and western Alabama.

There were no immediate reports of injuries or significant damage, other than the child killed by a large oak tree branch that fell onto a mobile home in Pensacola, Fla. Neighbor Amanda Ray told the Pensacola News Journal that she heard a crack and a scream as the limb fell around 9 p.m. Tuesday.

“It was just awful,” she said, adding that the sounds were almost indistinguishable from the storm’s howling winds. The Escambia County Sheriff’s Office posted on its Facebook page that responding deputies discovered the child had been killed. Officials haven’t released the child’s identity.

Escambia County received 10 calls overnight for downed trees in roadways, along with multiple reports of arcing power lines as the storm blew through with peak gusts of 61 mph. Beachgoers in the area were being warned Wednesday that it’s too early to return to the water; dangerous rip currents prompted red-flag warnings, meaning it’s illegal to enter the Gulf of Mexico.

## Japanese airport still closed after typhoon damage

Associated Press

TOKYO — One of Japan’s busiest airports remained closed indefinitely after the strongest typhoon to hit Japan in at least 25 years flooded a runway and other facilities while damaging other infrastructure and causing at least 10 deaths as it swept across part of Japan’s main island.

More than 400,000 households in western and central Japan were without power Wednesday, a day after Typhoon Jebi struck with sustained winds of 100 miles per hour at landfall. Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said at least 10 people were confirmed dead and about 300 people were injured.

A tanker that became unmoored by the typhoon’s pounding waves and wind slammed into a bridge linking offshore

Kansai International Airport to the mainland, damaging the bridge and the ship and stranding 3,000 passengers overnight at the airport. Under sunny skies Wednesday morning, they left by boat or were transported by buses across an intact road on the damaged bridge.

The airport is built on two artificial islands in Osaka Bay, and the high seas flooded one of the runways, cargo storage and other facilities, said the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism. One passenger was slightly injured by shards from a window shattered by the storm.

Airport officials could not say when the airport would resume operations. Flooding has largely subsided, but assessments were still being done on possible damage to equipment key to flight operations and

repairs of the damaged bridge.

Factories in the region, including automaker Daihatsu Motor Co. and electronics giant Panasonic as well as major beverage maker Kirin Co. suspended production at most of its factories in Osaka and nearby prefectures Tuesday, though most of them were expected to resume operation Wednesday, Kyodo News agency reported.

The Universal Studios Japan theme park in Osaka closed for a second day Wednesday but said in a news release it would reopen Thursday.

The deaths included a man in his 70s who was blown to the ground from his apartment in Osaka prefecture. Police said five others died elsewhere in the prefecture after being hit by flying objects or falling from their apartments.

## Liberal upstart stuns in bid for Massachusetts House seat

Associated Press

BOSTON — In a political stunner, incumbent Democratic U.S. Rep. Michael Capuano lost Tuesday’s primary to Ayanna Pressley, a Boston city councilor who is virtually assured of becoming the first black woman to serve Massachusetts in Congress.

The 44-year-old’s upset over a 10-term incumbent congressman underscores the shift underway in a Democratic Party whose base is seeking younger, more diverse candidates who embrace liberal policies. Her victory comes just two months after Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez similarly defeated a top House leader in a primary for a New York congressional seat.

Ocasio-Cortez on Tuesday night tweeted a selfie of both women together and wrote: “In June, I won my primary. Tonight, she won hers. Here’s to November.”

Pressley, the first black woman to serve on the council, is now on track to represent an area of Massachusetts once served by Democratic icons Tip O’Neill and John F. Kennedy.

“Change is coming and the future belongs to all of us,” Pressley told wildly cheering supporters Tuesday night.

A subdued Capuano told supporters he did everything he could to win re-election.

“Apparently, the district just is very upset with lots of things that are going on. I don’t blame them. I’m just as upset as they

are, but so be it. This is the way life goes,” he said.

The race between Capuano and Pressley was perhaps the most closely watched contest in Massachusetts, especially since Pressley drew comparisons to Ocasio-Cortez.

The 7th Congressional District is the only one in the state where minorities comprise a majority of the population.

Capuano is considered one of the most liberal members of the Massachusetts delegation, and Pressley had acknowledged she had few major policy quarrels with him. There is no Republican on the November ballot in the district, meaning Pressley is virtually assured of entering Congress in January.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Dripping blood leads to 2 dead bodies

**FL** MARGATE — A neighbor's call to police after noticing blood dripping from the ceiling of a South Florida apartment led to a grim discovery in the upstairs unit.

Margate police Lt. Joseph Galaska told news outlets Monday that Nicholas Mantzouranis, 84, killed his wife, Sally, 66, before turning the gun on himself.

Galaska said the tenant told a maintenance worker about the red substance seeping from the ceiling Sunday afternoon.

Paramedics and police were called to the apartment to perform a wellness check and found the bodies inside.

## Report: Meteorologist hurt anchor in fight

**WV** CHARLESTON — A police report said a West Virginia TV anchor who was injured in a fight with a station meteorologist told authorities the fight was over her husband.

The Huntington Herald-Dispatch reported the Charleston police report said WSAZ-TV on-air forecaster Chelsea Ambriz and station anchor Erica Bivens were at a bar last week when the fight started.

The report said Bivens told police Ambriz was flirting with her husband, and a confrontation ended in a fight.

Ambriz, 26, is accused of shoving Bivens, causing the anchor to suffer a fractured skull and ruptured ear drum. She is charged with misdemeanor battery.

## Patient jumps out of ambulance, is killed

**CA** DUBLIN — Authorities in Northern Cali-

fornia said a patient jumped out of a moving ambulance on a highway and was struck and killed by a passing car.

The California Highway Patrol told KTVU-TV the unidentified woman was being taken Monday from a medical center in Pleasanton to a psychiatric hospital in San Leandro.

The CHP said the woman got out of her restraints, overpowered a paramedic and jumped out as the ambulance was coming to a stop on a ramp connecting two highways. She was declared dead at the scene.

## Unique log cabin mansion up for sale

**WY** CODY — A northwest Wyoming mansion that features unusual architecture is up for sale for \$750,000.

Known as the Smith Mansion, the 75-foot-tall, five-story log cabin is a cavalcade of whimsy, towering over a hill that overlooks the surrounding landscape.

Built by engineer Francis Lee Smith, the house is a mishmash of designs, intercrossing wood and activity rooms.

The Cody Enterprise reported that the home has been the subject of numerous articles, documentaries and TV commercials over the years.

Real estate agent Scott Richard said it's up to the buyer whether to keep the structure intact or demolish it and build anew.

## Officials seek bear with head stuck

**NC** ASHEVILLE — Residents in western North Carolina are concerned about a fate of a bear that's been spotted several times in recent weeks with a plastic container stuck to its head.

WLOS-TV reported that it has gotten multiple reports and seen

multiple images of the bear in Henderson County since early August.

State Wildlife Resources officials advise people to call them immediately but not approach the bear if they see it.

Wildlife officials said the bear is able to breathe and drink with the container attached but likely isn't able to eat.

## Butterfly-killing plant found in state

**MI** KINGSLEY — Officials in northern Michigan are working to get rid of an invasive plant that poisons monarch butterflies.

The Traverse City Record-Eagle reported the black swallow-wort was recently spotted in downtown Kingsley. The vine has heart-shaped leaves and small, dark purple flowers. It typically grows along roadsides, pastures and gardens.

Emily Cook, of the Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network, said the plant attracts monarch butterflies, which often lay their eggs on it. But caterpillars will be poisoned when they hatch and begin to eat the plant.

## Night sky beckons stargazers to park

**ME** BAR HARBOR — There are few places in the country to get a better look at the night sky than Acadia National Park, and stargazers are meeting there to do just that.

The Acadia Night Sky Festival bills itself as "the premier night sky event on the Eastern seaboard" and it takes place all over Mount Desert Island, Bar Harbor and the Schoodic Peninsula.

Organizers say the star celebration is a multiday festival that includes more than three dozen events dedicated to the enjoy-

ment of Maine's night sky. The event runs through Sunday.

## High school football score sets record

**IA** COUNCIL BLUFFS — Council Bluffs Jefferson beat Sioux City North 99-81 Friday in the highest-scoring game in the history of Iowa high school football.

Council Bluffs led 57-21 at halftime. North rallied to score 60 points in the second half but still lost by 18, according to an unofficial box score provided to The Associated Press by Council Bluffs coach Brant Anderson.

Jefferson put up 99 points on the strength of a rushing attack that put up a staggering 749 yards on 67 carries. Cameron Baker had 358 yards and eight touchdowns. Jermaine Green added 209 yards and two touchdowns.

Sioux City North QB Matt Hagan threw for 310 yards and nine touchdowns in the losing effort.

## New safari exhibit opens in Topeka Zoo

**KS** TOPEKA — Visitors to the Topeka Zoo's newest exhibit can now experience what it's like to go on a safari.

The exhibit is based on zoo director emeritus Gary Clarke's experiences leading safaris, the Topeka Capital-Journal reported.

The entrance features a mixed species animal exhibit with patas monkeys, guinea fowl and tortoises. The exhibit opens onto Dung Beetle Square, which displays a Land Rover sourced from South Africa, a hot-air balloon basket and a canoe, all of which are modes of safari transportation.

The exhibit is part of a larger plan that involves the zoo opening a tract of land for the elephants.

From wire reports

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# Jaguars' 'D' has shot to make history

Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Standing on the sideline and watching one-on-one drills, Jalen Ramsey had an up-close look at this touchdown.

The receiver used a triple move to beat one of Ramsey's fellow defensive backs.

Ramsey shook his head in disbelief and hollered a few choice words across the practice field.

"That ain't happening in a game," Ramsey said, noting how long it took the play to develop. "Our defense is too good."

Ramsey was being modest. Jacksonville's D has a chance to be great, maybe even generational.

The bold, brash Jaguars, who relied on stout defense to win the AFC South and reach the conference title game last season, believe they will be even better on that side of the ball this fall. The unit allowed too many rushing yards early in 2017 and gave up too many big plays late, but pinned those problems on having three newcomers and three second-year players learning how to mesh while honing the details of coordinator Todd Wash's 4-3 scheme.

Nowadays, they feel like

they've figured out each other and the playbook.

And in a Super Bowl-or-bust season for Jacksonville, the talent-laden group plans to do whatever it takes to hoist the Lombardi Trophy and join a list of revered defenses that have carried teams to championships.

"Every great defense has won it all," Pro Bowl linebacker Telvin Smith said. "That is what we want to be. A great defense is not mediocre. It is not to say you won a couple (division) championships. No, we want to say we dominated the world. That is the next step."

The Jaguars finished second in the NFL in yards (286.1 per game), points (15.8), sacks (55), takeaways (33) and interceptions (21) last year. Players wanted more and were admittedly disappointed with the final rankings.

Coach Doug Marrone has since used it as motivation, publicly and privately needling his defenders.

"Make no mistake about it, I like it when people have a chip on their shoulder," Marrone said. "I have a boulder on my shoulder."

The Jaguars feel they have plenty to prove, mostly because of how last season ended.

Jacksonville squandered a 10-point lead in the fourth quarter of the AFC championship game at New England. The vaunted defense gave up an 85-yard touchdown drive—the key play was a 21-yard completion on third-and-18 that left players openly questioning the scheme—and then allowed Tom Brady and Danny Amendola to hook up again for another score late.

"I would be lying if I said that didn't keep me up all offseason," said safety Tashaun Gipson, who blamed himself for the rare conversion. "Got lax. ... I have to make that play."

Even though they don't want to look back, the Jaguars will try to make amends.

Jacksonville returns 12 of its top 14 defenders from 2017, including six Pro Bowl selections. The only guys missing are veteran linebacker Paul Posluszny, who retired from the NFL after 11 seasons, and nickel cornerback Aaron Colvin, who signed a four-year, \$34 million contract with division rival Houston.

Even without them, the Jags will have eight starters on that side of the ball who have made the Pro Bowl in the last four years. That's talent at every level of the defense, a mix of youth and experience.

All-Pro defensive end Calais Campbell is coming off a career year that included 14½ sacks and is the undisputed leader of what is widely considered the most disruptive front in the league. Defensive end Yannick Ngakoue (20 sacks and an NFL-leading 10 forced fumbles in two seasons) is a budding star. Malik Jackson is one of the most complete defensive tackles in the league. Fellow inside guy Marcell Dareus, acquired from Buffalo in late October, helped shore up a shaky run defense. Jacksonville ranked 30th in the league without him and eighth with him.

Speedy linebackers Smith and Myles Jack benefit most from the star-studded D-line, free to chase ball-carriers and make plays all over the field. Smith and Jack had a hand in three of Jacksonville's seven defensive touchdowns in 2017.

The secondary scored just once, but was nonetheless a big part of the group's success.

Jacksonville led the league in passing defense, giving up 20 yards a game fewer than anyone else, and was the only team in the league to have four players with at least four interceptions. Ramsey, Gipson and fellow safety Barry Church had four apiece.

## With Wentz still sidelined, Foles ready to lead Eagles

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — A rough preseason had people doubting Nick Foles again.

The Super Bowl MVP is used to criticism and he's ready to lead the defending champion Philadelphia Eagles in the season opener against the Atlanta Falcons on Thursday night.

Foles was the toast of the town after spectacular performances in the NFC championship game against Minnesota and the Super Bowl victory over New England. But he didn't lead the offense to any points on 14 drives in two preseason games,

threw two interceptions, lost two fumbles and got sacked six times, including a safety.

"I went out there and played," Foles said Tuesday. "I made mistakes. I did good things. I grew as a player. That's important. I wasn't trying to play it safe and with that you are going to make mistakes. Obviously, it isn't fun, but you get to watch film and deal with the emotions of throwing a pick, having a strip-sack, and I dealt with it in the preseason and keep learning from it and move forward."

Foles replaced Carson Wentz after the franchise quarterback tore two knee ligaments

in Week 14 last season. He rallied the Eagles to a victory over the Los Angeles Rams to clinch the NFC East and played well in his first five quarters. He struggled in the next five and some critics suggested Foles should be benched for Nate Sudfeld for the division playoff game against Atlanta. Coach Doug Pederson never lost confidence in Foles, and it paid off when he helped the Eagles win their first NFL title since 1960.

Foles had a 115.7 passer rating, completed 72.6 percent of his passes and threw for 971 yards, six TDs and one interception in the playoffs.

Which version of Foles will show up this week?

"I think everyone tries to figure out sports. Sports, you never know," Foles said. "You go out there and play, you give everything you have. I think there's plenty of games that are middle ground that I've played."

Foles wasn't officially named the starter until Monday, though it was obvious Wentz wasn't going to be ready to play. Wentz still hasn't been medically cleared.

"The more I play, the more I'll get in a rhythm," Foles said.



# Nadal, Serena rally after shaky starts

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Rafael Nadal began his U.S. Open quarterfinal as poorly as possible, shut out in a set by a 6-0 score for only the fourth time in 282 career Grand Slam matches.

On the previous three such occasions, he'd lost. On this one, he managed to come back to win, although it took 4 hours, 49 minutes and never did get easy for him.

The defending champion and No. 1 seed at Flushing Meadows recovered from his disastrous start and other stumbles along the way to beat No. 9 Dominic Thiem 0-6, 6-4, 7-5, 6-7 (4), 7-6 (5) for a semifinal berth at a third consecutive Grand Slam tournament, winning a physical, back-and-forth tussle that concluded after 2 a.m. on Wednesday.

How tense and tight was this one? Not only was Nadal two points from losing at 5-all in the closing tiebreaker, but he finished with fewer total points, 171-166.

"It's cruel, sometimes, tennis," Thiem said, calling the loss "the first really epic match I've played."

When it ended, on an overhead by Thiem that sailed long, everyone in Nadal's guest box

— a group that included actor Ben Stiller — leaped to their feet to celebrate. Nadal climbed over the net to hug his opponent, then whisper an apology and words of encouragement.

"I'm very sorry for Dominic," Nadal told a rowdy crowd in Arthur Ashe Stadium. "He's a close friend on tour. He's a great guy. A great player."

Asked about that at his news conference, Thiem said with a chuckle: "Well, I don't think he's really sorry."

This rematch of the French Open final in June, won by Nadal, was his first match against a top-20 opponent at the U.S. Open since 2013, when he beat then-No. 1 Novak Djokovic in the final.

Serena Williams began her quarterfinal tentatively, facing the last player she lost to at Flushing Meadows. She kept looking up to her coach, as if seeking solutions. After just 20 minutes Tuesday night, Williams was in danger of trailing by two service breaks. Not much later, the outcome was no longer in doubt, because the 23-time Grand Slam champion suddenly was in complete control.

Williams put aside some early shakiness and an early deficit, turning things around with an eight-game run en route to a

6-4, 6-3 victory over No. 8 seed Karolina Pliskova for a spot in the semifinals. It was Williams' first win over a top-10 player this season.

"I was playing really not a good game," said Williams, who was a point from trailing 4-1 and did fall behind 4-2 while making 22 of her 30 unforced errors in the first set. "I was thinking, 'You know, I can play better.' So that was the good news."

With her older sister, Venus — the woman Serena beat in the third round — in her guest box, Williams looked tight. Her timing was off. She put a backhand into the net to get broken to 2-1 at the outset. Then, down 3-1, she faced three break points; if Pliskova won any, she would have led 4-1. But Pliskova did not manage to put any of Williams' serves in play on those key points.

"Too strong," Pliskova said.

Williams' semifinal opponent will be No. 19 seed Anastasija Sevastova of Latvia, who surprisingly beat defending champion Sloane Stephens 6-2, 6-3 earlier Tuesday.

Stephens, who said she had been dealing with a sinus infection, rued all of her wasted opportunities, most notably the seven break points she failed

to convert in the first set. She sure didn't attempt to hide her frustration, either, repeatedly gesturing toward or speaking in the direction of her coach, Kamau Murray, up in the stands.

Nadal is bidding for a fourth title at Flushing Meadows and 18th Grand Slam trophy overall.

On Friday, Nadal will take on a familiar foe with a berth in the final on the line: 2009 champion and No. 3 seed Juan Martin del Potro, who defeated No. 11 John Isner 6-7 (5), 6-3, 7-6 (4), 6-2.

During that earlier quarterfinal, Isner doubled over and rested his elbows on his knees. He grimaced. He shook his head. He looked as if he wanted to be anywhere but where he was: falling further and further behind in energy-robbing heat.

"Whatever the humidity is on outer courts or in the city, I think it's amplified on center court," Isner said. "It's just very difficult to deal with. I have never seen Roger sweat ever. If he's sweating a lot and has to change clothes, then you know it's pretty humid out there."

Isner was bidding to become the first American man in a dozen years to get to the final four at Flushing Meadows.

## Furniture Row Racing folding after season

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Saying it cannot find enough funding to remain competitive, Furniture Row Racing announced Tuesday it will close its doors at the end of season, one year after Martin Truex Jr. won the maverick Colorado-based team its first NASCAR championship.

Team owner Barney Visser said it was a painful decision but "the numbers just don't add up."

"I would have to borrow money to continue as a competitive team and I'm not going to do that," Visser said.

Visser, a 69-year-old Denver native, owns one of the largest family-owned home furnishing and bedding retailers in the country. He suffered a heart attack two weeks

before last year's season finale and was not able to attend Truex's title-clinching race or the championship celebration. Visser had previously said he would not shut down the team, but reversed his decision with just 11 races remaining this season.

"I had a wake-up call last year and while I feel great, I need to make the best decisions that will have an impact on myself and my family," Visser said.

Visser's decision comes just one week before NASCAR's playoffs begin with Truex expected to be a strong contender to defend his Cup Series title. Truex has dominated all season along with Kevin Harvick and Kyle Busch, but he has been dogged by talk of free agency.

As weeks went by, Visser had not secured contract extensions with Truex, partner

Joe Gibbs Racing or manufacturer Toyota. Visser has largely paid for the operation since its 2005 inception but was aided by sponsorship from 5-hour Energy, which plans to leave NASCAR at the end of the season.

"We've been aggressively seeking sponsorship to replace 5-hour Energy and to offset the rising costs of continuing a team alliance with Joe Gibbs Racing, but haven't had any success," Visser said. "I feel that it's only proper to make the decision at this time to allow all team members to start seeking employment for next year."

That includes Truex and championship-winning crew chief Cole Pearn, who must seek new employment during the 10-race playoff push.

# Hot Voit powers Yankees past Athletics

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Luke Voit let a changeup go by for a called strike on the first pitch from Fernando Rodney in the eighth inning. When the Athletics reliever tried sneaking another changeup past him, Voit sent it soaring into the left-field stands.

The big first baseman hit a tiebreaking home run, Adeiny Hechavarria also went deep and the New York Yankees beat Oakland 5-1 on Tuesday night.

“He’s had a great changeup forever and I saw a good one first pitch,” Voit said. “I was taking that approach just to stay right-center if he hangs it. He left a pitch up and I have to do some damage with it.”

The Yankees didn’t have a baserunner until the fifth inning and didn’t get their first hit until the sixth. But they scored late off the normally reliable

A’s bullpen to even a series between the top two teams in the AL wild-card race.

New York increased its lead over Oakland to 4½ games for the first wild card.

Four pitchers combined on a two-hitter for the Yankees. David Robertson (8-3) retired three batters to earn the win.

Brett Gardner singled twice and scored a pair of runs for New York. Aaron Hicks added two RBIs.

“This is like a playoff game,” Voit said. “I think we’re going to get hot at the right time. This team is so freaking dangerous, especially when we get some of these guys back from injuries. The sky’s the limit and I’m excited.”

Voit homered on an 0-1 pitch from Rodney (4-3), a towering solo shot to left field. Voit emphatically pointed to the Yankees dugout and smiled while heading toward first base as a

large contingent of New York fans at the Coliseum cheered.

It was Voit’s seventh home run in 12 games.

“To see the Luke Voit show roll on, he’s been terrific,” Yankees manager Aaron Boone said. “He’s got confidence deep down in his ability. He plays with a little bit of a swagger, but that’s from a place of confidence.”

Hicks, who drew a bases-loaded walk to tie the game in the seventh, added a two-out RBI single later in the eighth.

Hechavarria homered in the ninth, his first with the Yankees after being acquired from Pittsburgh last week.

“It definitely felt nice,” Hechavarria said through a translator. “The second pitch was a fastball and I was kind of late on that. I figured he was going to come back with that, and the next time around I was

ready for it.”

Stephen Piscotty hit his 22nd home run for Oakland.

For the second time in four games, the A’s started a reliever. Liam Hendriks, who also started Saturday, pitched the first inning before Daniel Mengden took over in the second.

Mengden kept the Yankees hitless until Gleyber Torres singled just past diving shortstop Marcus Semien. Torres was promptly picked off by Ryan Buchter.

“It’s more we just didn’t do enough offensively tonight,” A’s manager Bob Melvin said. “No matter what we give up, even if it’s two runs, when you get two hits, it’s going to be a tough time winning.”

Piscotty homered off Yankees starter J.A. Happ in the second, matching his season high set in 2016 with St. Louis.

## MLB roundup

### Molina, Ozuna help Cardinals snap three-game slide

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — St. Louis Cardinals manager Mike Shildt changed his lineup after arriving at Nationals Park, dropping catcher Yadier Molina from second to sixth.

Molina responded with a grand slam, Marcell Ozuna homered twice and the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Washington Nationals 11-8 on Tuesday night.

Molina’s sixth career grand slam provided a cushion for St. Louis, making it 11-5 with two outs in the ninth.

“It did work out. We were happy with it,” Shildt said. “Just thinking about different ways as the lineup has looked the last couple of days, maybe lengthening it out, spreading some things out a little bit.”

The Cardinals, who occupy the second NL wild card spot, hit five homers overall as they

stopped a three-game skid.

**Red Sox 5, Braves 1:** Steve Pearce had three hits and three RBIs, Rick Porcello allowed two hits in five innings and visiting Boston earned its second straight win in a matchup of division leaders.

**Brewers 11, Cubs 1:** Lorenzo Cain reached base five times, Wade Miley pitched six stingy innings and host Milwaukee romped past Chicago to climb within three games of the NL Central leaders.

**Orioles 5, Mariners 3:** A rough day for the Seattle Mariners that began with a clubhouse brawl ended with Baltimore rookie Renato Nunez and the visiting Orioles rallying to win.

**Dodgers 11, Mets 4:** David Freese hit his first homer with his new club and Rich Hill rebounded from a sluggish start on the mound as host Los An-

geles erased an early four-run deficit.

**Rockies 6, Giants 2:** Ryan McMahon had a pinch-hit home run and Carlos Gonzalez tripled with the bases loaded during a five-run seventh inning that carried host Colorado past San Francisco.

**Diamondbacks 6, Padres 0:** Robbie Ray struck out 10 and pitched two-hit ball for 6⅓ innings as host Arizona blanked San Diego to end a four-game losing streak.

**Phillies 9, Marlins 4:** Carlos Santana homered to start a four-run first inning and Philadelphia snapped a three-game losing streak by beating host Miami.

**Astros 5, Twins 2:** Alex Bregman hit three doubles and Yuli Gurriel homered for the second game in a row, leading Justin Verlander and host Houston to its fourth straight win.

**Tigers 8, White Sox 3:** A fan was hit in the face by a foul ball and bled profusely before walking to the first aid station, causing a brief delay during visiting Detroit’s win.

**Indians 9, Royals 3:** Mike Clevinger struck out 10, Francisco Lindor hit another lead-off homer and host Cleveland ended a three-game losing streak.

**Rangers 4, Angels 2:** Adrian Beltre and Elvis Andrus each hit solo home runs in the fourth inning to lead host Texas.

**Rays 4, Blue Jays 0:** Ryne Stanek became the first rookie pitcher in 75 years to start consecutive games and combined with six relievers on a three-hitter as visiting Tampa Bay won its fourth in a row.

**Pirates 7, Reds 3:** Starling Marte hit a two-run homer, Gregory Polanco had a two-run double and host Pittsburgh topped Cincinnati.