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Somber ceremonies mark 9/11 anniversary

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Americans looked back on 9/11 Tuesday with solemn ceremonies, volunteer service and a presidential tribute to “the moment when America fought back” on one of the hijacked planes used as weapons in the deadliest terrorist attack on U.S. soil.

Thousands of 9/11 victims’ relatives, survivors, rescuers and others gathered on a misty Tuesday morning at the memorial plaza where the World Trade Center’s twin towers once stood. President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence headed to the two other places where hijacked planes crashed on Sept. 11, 2001: a Pennsylvania field and the Pentagon.

Seventeen years after losing her husband, Margie Miller went to the New York City ceremony from her home in suburban Baldwin.

“To me, he is here. This is my holy place,” she said before the

hourlong reading of the names of the nearly 3,000 dead, including her husband, Joel Miller.

The president and first lady Melania Trump joined an observance at the Sept. 11 memorial in a field near Shanksville, Pa., where one of the jetliners fell to the ground after 40 passengers and crewmembers realized hijackers had taken control and tried to storm the cockpit.

Calling it “the moment when America fought back,” Trump said the fallen “took control of their destiny and changed the course of history.”

They “joined the immortal ranks of American heroes,” said Trump.

Pence recalled the heroism of servicemembers and civilians who repeatedly went back into the Pentagon to rescue survivors.

The terrorists “hoped to break our spirit, and they failed,” he said.

The 9/11 commemorations are by now familiar ritu-

als, centered on reading the names of the dead. But each year at ground zero, victims’ relatives infuse the ceremony with personal messages of remembrance, inspiration and concern.

For Nicholas Haros Jr., that concern is officials who make comparisons to 9/11 or invoke it for political purposes.

“Stop. Stop,” pleaded Haros, who lost his 76-year-old mother, Frances. “Please stop using the bones and ashes of our loved ones as props in your political theater. Their lives, sacrifices and deaths are worth so much more. Let’s not trivialize them.”

This year’s anniversary comes as a heated midterm election cycle kicks into high gear. But there have long been some efforts to separate the solemn anniversary from politics. The group 9/11 Day, which promoted volunteering on an anniversary service in 2009, routinely asks candidates not to campaign or run political

ads for the day. Organizers of the ground zero ceremony allow politicians to attend, but they’ve been barred since 2011 from reading names or delivering remarks.

If not political speeches, some victims’ relatives made appeals to patriotism and support for the military and first responders as they read names. Mary Ann Marino said her family is humbled by the actions of first responders like her husband, firefighter Kenneth Marino, but “our hearts still ache for what should have been.”

Other relatives laid bare the toll their losses had taken on their families. Thomas Langer said his brother, Timmy, “drank himself to death” over the grief of losing his wife, Vanessa, and their unborn child on Sept. 11.

“I witnessed my brother endure the pain that no one human being was ever meant to bear,” Thomas Langer said, adding that he had struggled with despair himself.

Bases on East Coast evacuate as hurricane approaches

BY ROSE L. THAYER
AND CLAUDIA GRISALES
Stars and Stripes

All or portions of at least four military installations along the East Coast have ordered evacuations in anticipation of Hurricane Florence as the massive storm is expected to make landfall by Thursday.

Navy officials have authorized an emergency evacuation order for personnel residing in Hampton Roads and Virginia Zone A of Naval Station Norfolk. The order follows the Virginia governor’s evacuation order for the same area and will remain in effect until Saturday.

“The safety of our personnel and their families is my top priority right now,” said Rear Adm. Charles Rock, the commander of Navy Region Mid-Atlantic. “Our mission is to support the fleet, fighter and family, and the team at Navy Region Mid-Atlantic has been working around the clock to provide support and information during this very stressful time.”

The Air Force is evacuating Joint Base Charleston, S.C., and has a limited evacuation order at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va., as announced on each base’s Facebook page. Both bases are following the lead of

local and state evacuation orders, said Air Force Maj. Lindy Singleton. At Langley-Eustis, the order is for personnel who reside on Langley Air Force Base or in the Virginia Department of Emergency Management Evacuation Zone A.

The Air Force has ordered any personnel traveling to those bases to stay where they are. Officials are also monitoring Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C., Pope Field at Fort Bragg, N.C., and the Washington, D.C., area, Singleton said. Some aircraft at Seymour Johnson and Langley have started to move to other locations.

Langley’s F-22 Raptors and

T-38 Talon training jets began flying out Tuesday. They will fly to Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base in central Ohio. Joint Base Langley-Eustis sits near the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay.

Air Force Col. Jason Hinds said in a statement that the base’s facilities can withstand hurricane-force winds. But he said there’s no reason to risk any damage to the base’s fleet of advanced F-22 fighter jets. About 100 personnel will travel to Ohio to support the jets.

On Monday, a mandatory evacuation of Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., was announced.

Moon urges Trump, Kim to restore talks

BY KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea's president called on the U.S. and North Korea to make "bold decisions" to put nuclear negotiations back on track as the White House announced planning is underway for a second summit between President Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un.

President Moon Jae-in, who plans to travel to Pyongyang next week for a meeting with Kim, said he has no choice but to play mediator between the longtime adversaries.

Talks aimed at persuading the North to give up nuclear weapons have stalled since Trump and Kim vowed to work toward the "complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula" at their June 12 summit in Singapore.

Trump welcomed a North Korean military parade over the weekend that left out the usual long-range missiles and focused on peace and economic development in what was seen as a gesture toward rekindling talks with Washington.

Moon said Tuesday that the North must dismantle its nuclear weapons programs and the U.S. must take a corresponding step.

"If we would like to move to a higher level ... bold ideas and decisions by the leaders of North Korea and the United States are necessary," he said during a Cabinet meeting, according to a transcript from his office. "In the process, both countries must end the deep-rooted, mutual distrust stemming from 70 years of hostile relations." White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Monday that Kim sent Trump a letter with a request for a follow-up to their historic summit, which was a first for a sitting U.S. president.

She said the administration was open to the request and was "already in the process of coordinating that," although she said no details had been finalized.

The Trump administration has praised Kim for taking steps toward denuclearization, including the fact that the North has not tested a ballistic missile in nearly a year and blew up a nuclear testing facility.

The sides are deadlocked over how to proceed as the North is calling for a phased approach that includes rewards for steps taken while the U.S. insists it won't ease punishing economic sanctions until denuclearization is achieved.

Koreas to hold talks on easing border tensions

BY KIM GAMEL
AND YOO KYONG CHANG
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea—North and South Korean military officers will discuss ways to ease border tensions Thursday in the truce village of Panmunjom, the South Korean Defense Ministry said.

The talks will occur four days before an inter-Korean summit is to begin in Pyongyang amid a new push for diplomatic momentum in the crisis over the North nuclear weapon's program.

The military meeting will focus on proposals to excavate the remains of troops killed in the 1950-53 Korean War from the heavily fortified frontier, the removal of guard posts from the Demilitarized Zone on a trial basis and how to disarm the jointly patrolled area in Panmunjom, the Yonhap News Agency reported.

The officers also are expected to discuss the military agenda for the three-day meeting between South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, which is to begin on Sept. 18, more than four months after the two leaders first met.

South Korea's three-member delegation to the military meeting, which will be held on the North Korean side, will be led by Col. Cho Yong Geun, the Defense Ministry said in a state-

ment. A ministry official, who spoke on condition of anonymity in line with department policy, said details about the agenda haven't been finalized.

The Demilitarized Zone — a 2.5-mile-wide, more than 150-mile-long no man's land lined with barbed wire and dotted with land mines — has divided the peninsula since the war ended in an armistice instead of a peace treaty.

The Joint Security Area, with several blue conference buildings straddling the Military Demarcation Line, is controlled by the U.S.-led United Nations Command.

South Korean Defense Minister Song Young-moo said last month that the two sides had each agreed to remove several guard posts on a trial basis.

Gen. Vincent Brooks, commander of the United Nations Command and U.S. Forces Korea, said he supports the initiative as a way to reduce tensions and build trust between the rival nations, despite the risks.

"I have some concerns about what that means militarily to the ability to defend along the Military Demarcation Line and in depth beyond it," he told reporters in Seoul. "I believe that there's a reasonable amount of risk that's involved in this, not an excessive amount of risk," to the defense of South Korea.

South Korea cuts oil imports from Iran to zero

Bloomberg

South Korea has become the first of Iran's top-three oil customers to fulfill a hard-line U.S. demand that buyers cut imports to zero.

The Asian nation didn't import any crude from Iran last month, compared with 194,000 barrels a day in July, tanker-tracking and shipping data compiled by Bloomberg show. While bigger consumers China and India have curbed buying from the OPEC producer, South Korea has gone

one step farther by halting purchases before the U.S. imposes sanctions on the Islamic Republic on Nov. 4.

The Trump administration made the demand over Iranian oil after President Donald Trump in May withdrew from a 2015 deal that lifted many sanctions on the Middle East nation in exchange for restrictions on the country's nuclear program.

The South Korean government's official stance over Iranian sanctions is that it's continuing talks with the U.S. in a bid to seek a waiver. While the Trump admin-

istration has softened its stance slightly, going from zero tolerance on purchases to saying it will consider exemptions, they are yet to be granted and buyers still face the risk of being cut off from the U.S. financial system after the November deadline.

"We will consider waivers where appropriate," Secretary of State Michael Pompeo said at a press briefing in New Delhi on Thursday. But "it is our expectation that the purchases of Iranian crude oil will go to zero from every country or sanctions will be imposed," he said.

US bases on Guam assess storm damage

By MATTHEW M. BURKE

Stars and Stripes

While Typhoon Mangkhut has moved on from Guam and the Northern Marianas, it could take days to assess damage and clean up debris left in the powerful storm's wake.

The Category 2 typhoon battered the islands Monday afternoon, felling trees and power lines, blocking roads and depositing more than 10 inches of rain on some parts of the island that caused minor flooding and building leaks, officials and media reports said.

No injuries were reported among Guam's military community; however, approximately 80 percent of the island was left without power Tuesday, U.S. military officials and the Pacific Daily News reported.

Crews were still assessing the damage Tuesday afternoon.

"We fared the storm," Joint Region Marianas spokesman Lt. Ian McConnaughey said Tuesday afternoon. It "didn't hit us as hard as it could have. ... We're fully mission capable at both bases."

Mangkhut had been slated to pass about

40 miles north of Andersen Air Force Base and 59 miles north of Hagatna at approximately 8 p.m. Monday, according to the National Weather Service on Guam. Its highest winds — 67 mph sustained and 87 mph gusts — were recorded at Andersen between 9 and 11 p.m. Monday.

By 5 a.m. Tuesday, winds began to subside, though small-craft and high-surf advisories remained in effect throughout the day, the National Weather Service said.

Tropical Cyclone Condition of Readiness 4 — the lowest stage — was declared at noon by Guam Gov. Eddie Baza Calvo and Joint Region Marianas commander Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield.

Some U.S. military facilities on Guam were operating on generators Tuesday afternoon, McConnaughey said, but he believed all base facilities and on-base housing units had power.

Navy ships normally stationed at Guam remained at sea Tuesday as a precaution.

Some "quality of life" facilities remained shuttered Tuesday, McConnaughey said.

"We'll be back up soon," he said. "People [venturing out] need to be careful."

Naval Base Guam kept all Morale, Wel-

fare and Recreation facilities, child development centers, the Navy Exchange, commissary, Visitor Control Center and Department of Defense Education Activity schools closed Tuesday, according to a statement on the Guam Homeland Security/Office of Civil Defense Facebook page.

Mission-essential personnel have been recalled, but all others were told to stay away until normal base operations begin on Wednesday.

DODEA schools on Guam will remain closed for students Wednesday, McConnaughey said. The ports of Guam and Saipan were open to all commercial vessels and cargo operations at 4 p.m., the Coast Guard said.

The ports at Tinian and Rota remained closed pending the completion of safety inspections.

President Donald Trump approved an emergency declaration Tuesday for Rota, Saipan and Tinian, authorizing the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide assistance, local radio station KUAM News reported.

Measure to let VA doctors OK pot isn't in budget bill

By NIKKI WENTLING

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A measure to allow doctors at the Department of Veterans Affairs to recommend marijuana in states where it's medically legal failed to make it into the final version of a VA funding bill for the third consecutive year.

Lawmakers on Monday released their VA funding agreement for fiscal 2019 following more than a month of debate between House and Senate negotiators. An amendment to expand veterans' access to marijuana was removed from the annual budget bill during those negotiations.

The House is set to vote on the bill this week, ahead of the new fiscal year, which begins Oct 1.

"Denying veterans the care they need by the doctors they trust is shameful," said Rep. Earl Blumenauer, D-Ore., who sponsored the amendment in

the House. "This should have been a no-brainer. Yet, Republican leadership has once again stymied progress toward fair and equal treatment for our veterans."

The amendment, which was approved this year by the Senate but not the House, would allow VA doctors to recommend marijuana to veterans who are eligible for it under state laws. Marijuana use for medical purposes is legal in 31 states.

The VA currently prohibits its doctors from completing forms for veterans that would admit them into medical marijuana programs.

The measure was part of recent efforts in Congress to give veterans easier access to marijuana, which has been posited by supporters as an alternative to addictive opioids. Some veterans contend marijuana effectively treats post-traumatic stress disorder and chronic pain.

Hawaii-based ships sortie ahead of tropical storm

By WYATT OLSON

Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — For the second time in less than a month, the Navy has ordered Hawaii-based ships and submarines to sortie as a storm approaches the islands.

Tropical Storm Olivia — at times surging to a Category 1 hurricane during past days — was expected to arrive in the Hawaiian Islands on Tuesday afternoon local time.

"Sortie of our Pearl Harbor-based ships allows them the most protection from the approaching storm," Rear Adm. Brian Fort, commander of Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, said in a Navy statement Monday evening. "An early sortie allows enough time to transit safely out of the path of the storm."

Last month, Fort ordered a sortie as Hurricane Lane approached Hawaii as a Cat-

egory 4 before weakening to a tropical storm. While it soaked Hawaii and Maui islands, the storm turned sharply west and spared Oahu, home of Pearl Harbor and most U.S. military installations.

Some ships will not be able to sortie due to ongoing maintenance work, the Navy said. For those ships, commanders have the options of additional mooring and storm ties, dropping anchor and disconnecting from shore power cables.

The VA Pacific Islands Health System announced Monday that outpatient clinics on the big island of Hawaii, Maui, Lanai and Molokai would be closed Tuesday. The VA has enacted the Pharmacy Disaster Relief Plan, which allows veterans to refill prescriptions at any retail pharmacy if needed.

Clinics on Oahu were still scheduled to be open Tuesday.

9/11 still a mystery for many Afghans

By J.P. LAWRENCE

Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Behind blast walls, soldiers at the Resolute Support headquarters in Kabul commemorated the 17th anniversary of 9/11 on Tuesday.

Beyond the walls, several Afghans interviewed across the country told Stars and Stripes they either didn't know why the private memorial was taking place or didn't believe the terrorism attacks happened the way they did.

Other Afghans questioned how the attacks were connected to the ongoing U.S. and NATO presence in their country.

Ignorance of 9/11 and the rationale for U.S. intervention indicate that the United States and NATO have failed to communicate with Afghans about their mission here, experts say. That failure ultimately undermines support for the fight against the insurgents and terrorist groups.

"The vast majority of Afghans generally have no concrete, explicit reason as to why we have been in the country for 17 years," said Thomas Johnson, a professor at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif.

Sami Yousafzai, 44, a journalist, was one of many Afghans living in a refugee camp in Pakistan on Sept. 11, 2001, when al-Qaida terrorists hijacked planes and crashed into the World Trade Center in New York, the Pentagon and a field in Pennsylvania. He agreed with Johnson about Afghan ignorance of the event.

"The majority of Afghans, they know very little about 9/11," he said.

Very few Afghans at the camp had TVs in

2001, but a shop next door had a 14-inch, Russian-made black-and-white model. A friend called Yousafzai over and told him someone had attacked some buildings in America.

Yousafzai arrived in time to watch the second of two planes hit the World Trade Center. He said he knew his life and the destiny of Afghanistan was about to change. He knew that his country would be targeted for harboring al-Qaida and its leader, Osama bin Laden. He knew the U.S. was angry.

Not everyone was worried. Some Afghans were happy the U.S. had been targeted, viewing the attacks as God's punishment for supporting Israel, Yousafzai said.

Mir Alam, a Tajik farmer in rural northern Badakhshan province, did not know about 9/11 until his son told him a reporter wanted to ask him about it Monday. The news never came to him on his farm, said Alam, 51, who has never watched a TV and barely listens to the radio.

"I really don't know what 9/11 is," Alam said Monday. "I don't know anything about what happened that day."

When the Americans arrived, Alam said, he assumed they came for the same reasons the Russians had in 1979: to conquer the country. This view was echoed by Ghulam Ali, 41, a Pashtun tribal leader in eastern Kunar province, who said he saw American convoys passing his village for half a decade before he found out why.

Afghanistan has one of the lowest literacy rates in the world, with news spread mostly through word of mouth. That often means the Taliban control the flow of news in its territory through propaganda techniques such as poems.

Some Afghans are grateful that the legacy of 9/11 was the overthrow of the Taliban. Malika Hedayt, 26, a Hazara woman from the capital of central Bamiyan province, recalled hearing about the attacks on the radio. When American soldiers arrived, she was happy the Taliban, who persecuted the Hazara minority, would no longer be in power.

As the years went on, however, optimism the U.S. would bring peace faded.

Rahmatullah Yarmal, 26, is governor of southern Zabul province. When he saw American troops arrive in his country as a child, he said he understood why they came but believed they were making a mistake.

"When they saw this terrorism on 9/11, they didn't want others in the world to suffer the same. That's why the U.S. decided to come to Afghanistan," he said. "But I think their choice was not the right one. They should have gone to Pakistan to eliminate terrorism."

An insurgency continues across Afghanistan in what top U.S. generals call a stalemate. The U.S. government says the Taliban now control or contest 44 percent of Afghanistan, but military analysts cited by The New York Times says the number is closer to 61 percent of the country.

"9/11 changed our destiny but, unfortunately, that destiny didn't go well," the Afghan journalist Yousafzai said. "Violence is still here; the Americans are losing this war. At the start, we thought the Americans could be the troubleshooters for everything, but now we know that is wrong. They have a powerful military, a very rich economy, but it's not going to work."

Airstrikes prepare way for SDF forces in anti-ISIS operation

By CHAD GARLAND

Stars and Stripes

Syrian Democratic Forces launched the third phase of ground operations to clear Islamic State fighters from northeastern Syria on Monday following cross-border air and artillery strikes from the U.S.-led coalition in Iraq.

The operations aim to clear ISIS from areas along the Middle Euphrates River Valley and toward the border with Iraq, the Operation Inherent Resolve coalition said in a statement Tuesday.

Dubbed Operation Roundup, the effort began in May with the clearing of ISIS from near

Baghuz, a village on the eastern bank of the Euphrates River. A second phase that ended in late July swept the militants from around the town of Dasheda.

For more than a month, the coalition has conducted operations in the village of Hajin and the countryside outside the city of Deir Ezzor to prepare for the advance. Coalition aircraft and artillery have carried out dozens of strikes in the border region in recent weeks.

SDF said in a separate statement Tuesday that the four-axis ground assault would clear ISIS from villages and farms in an area of about 22 miles by 6 miles. The troops would take measures to avoid civilian suffering, such

as providing humanitarian crossings for fleeing civilians and emergency camps with medical services, SDF said.

"While reaffirming our determination to move forward to end terrorism in the east of the Euphrates, [we] will spare no effort to do everything we can with regard to our humanitarian obligations," the SDF statement said.

The U.S. has drawn criticism for partnering with the group, which is largely made up of the Kurdish People's Protection Units, or YPG. Turkey considers the YPG an extension of the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, and Ankara and the U.S. State Department, among oth-

ers, consider the PKK a terrorist organization.

Observers have also criticized SDF for drawing minors into its ranks. Last week, the group's top commander issued orders to all factions and formations prohibiting the recruitment of children under age 18.

In its statement on the new phase of the offensive, the coalition touted the Kurdish-led SDF as reliable and effective combat soldiers who abide by the laws of armed conflict. U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Patrick Roberson, coalition special operations task force commander, pledged continuing support to its partners and thanked them for their sacrifices in the anti-ISIS fight.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Teen pilot makes emergency landing

MA BEVERLY — Authorities said a 17-year-old student pilot making her first solo flight executed a successful emergency landing in Massachusetts after losing a wheel during takeoff.

The girl took off from Beverly Regional Airport on Sunday afternoon. The Federal Aviation Administration said that soon after takeoff, the pilot of the single-engine, fixed-wing plane reported losing her right main wheel assembly.

An instructor on the ground talked the pilot through the proper technique for an emergency landing, which she made successfully about 5:45 p.m. The pilot wasn't hurt, although the plane suffered significant damage.

Restaurant owner fined over no-pee sign

CT NEW HAVEN — A sarcastic sign in the window of a Connecticut restaurant asking people not to let their dogs pee onto the eatery's outside flower pot has earned the owner a \$250 fine.

Duc Nguyen, owner of Duc's Place in New Haven, told the New Haven Independent he was disgusted with people allowing their dogs to urinate onto his pot. He thought a humorous sign was a good way of discouraging dog walkers from letting pets relieve themselves there. It read: "Attn: dog owners. This is a pay-per-pee flower pot. (Pay inside or leave your address and we'll kindly return the favor.)"

Honda Smith, the city's public space enforcement officer, said Nguyen broke two city ordinances for being a public nuisance and issued the fine Tuesday. Nguyen said he plans to appeal.

Trench, sandbags help educate about WWI

MI HOUGHTON — To commemorate the centennial of the end of World War I, a trench has been dug on the campus of Michigan Technological University in the Upper Peninsula to replicate the trenches that were used in the battlefields of Europe.

Sandbags are being used to support the wall and to show how soldiers shielded themselves from enemy fire.

The Daily Mining Gazette reported the project is part of World War I & Copper Country, an effort to highlight what life was like for soldiers.

The trench will be open to the public until Nov. 11 and then will be filled in during a closing ceremony.

Officers seek grizzly seen in neighborhood

WY CODY — Wyoming wildlife officers are trying to trap a grizzly bear that was spotted in a residential neighborhood of Cody.

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department said the bear was seen eating apples in a yard on Saturday. Cody police described it as a large male.

Hunters unearth mammoth's tusk

AK ANCHORAGE — A pair duck hunting in northwest Alaska stumbled upon a 177-pound woolly mammoth tusk sticking out of the ground.

The Anchorage Daily News reported Justin Schultze and Brandon Nayokpuk dug the 12-foot tusk out of the ground earlier this month near the village of Shishmaref on the Chukchi Sea coast.

After digging for about a

half-hour, the pair loaded the tusk onto a skiff to lug home. Schultze said about half the village of 600 people has visited his house in recent days to see the polished, amber-like tusk.

Fire department wants fee to help fallen

NE OMAHA — The Omaha Fire Department wants the city to charge a fee for helping pick up people who have fallen.

The Omaha World-Herald reported that the department said that up to 350 times per year an assisted living facility or a nursing home calls 911, asking the department to help a resident who has fallen from a chair or bed onto a floor.

The department said each call costs the city at least \$1,000 and leads to longer response times for higher-priority calls. It has asked the City Council to approve a \$400 fee for the non-emergency calls.

Police: Toddler reveals pot during mom's stop

NY NEW SCOTLAND — New York State Police said a toddler showed a trooper a bag of marijuana during a traffic stop, resulting in the arrest of the girl's mother and the man with whom she was riding.

State police said two troopers stopped a car Thursday outside Albany and found the butt ends of marijuana cigarettes in the ashtray and a 3-year-old girl who wasn't in a child's car seat. Police said that while a trooper questioned the driver, the girl reached under a seat and showed the other trooper a bag of marijuana and a smoking pipe.

The 26-year-old man driving the car and the girl's 33-year-old mother were charged with

child endangerment. The girl has been turned over to relatives, and Albany County Child Protective Services was notified of the arrests.

Homeowners must pay \$5K over treehouse

MI ANN ARBOR — A judge has ordered a Michigan family that fought with city officials over the legality of a large, wooden treehouse to pay a \$5,000 fine.

Judge Karen Valvo earlier instructed Ann Arbor residents Tamar Boyadjian and Greg Douglas either to bring their treehouse up to code or to take it down. The Ann Arbor News reported the 15th District Court judge on Friday ordered Boyadjian to pay the previously suspended \$5,000 fine.

Boyadjian owns the home and already has paid about \$1,200 in fines. Boyadjian's attorney, Julia Gilbert, said the treehouse will soon be in compliance with city codes.

More than 100 snakes removed from home

TX SAN ANTONIO — Animal control officials removed more than 100 snakes from a San Antonio home.

The San Antonio Express-News reported that Animal Care Services removed 136 reticulated pythons and ball pythons after weeks of attempting to work with the reptiles' owner to fix concerns about the animals' living conditions.

Investigators said the man was breeding and selling the nonvenomous constrictors. Animal Care officers found the snakes in cages and plastic tubs.

A herpetologist from the San Antonio Zoo assisted officials in providing proper accommodations for the snakes.

From wire reports

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Rams ruin Gruden's return to Oakland

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Jon Gruden's return to the Oakland Raiders' sideline couldn't have gotten off to a better start, with Marshawn Lynch powering his way into the end zone for a touchdown.

The rest of the night turned out to be rather forgettable for the Raiders and showed that Oakland has a long way to go to get back to the level Gruden had the team playing at when his first stint as coach ended more than 16 years ago.

All that positive energy generated when Gruden was hired back in January turned to a chorus of boos by the end of a 33-13 loss to the Los Angeles Rams on Monday.

"It was great," Gruden said of being back on the sideline at the Oakland Coliseum. "It's not time for that anymore. It's about getting this football team better. It wasn't good enough tonight."

The Raiders (0-1) were good enough for one half as Derek

Carr led the team to that opening-drive touchdown and two more field goals that gave Oakland a 13-10 lead at halftime.

But the Rams (1-0) then scored all 23 points in the second half, with Marcus Peters returning Carr's third interception of the game 50 yards for a game-sealing touchdown that sent the fans who pined for Gruden's return for years heading to the exits.

"We are a better team than what was put out there on the field," tight end Jared Cook said. "This one game does not define us."

The Raiders took the opening kick and drove 75 yards for a touchdown on a 10-yard run by Lynch. The Rams had Lynch stood up at the 3, but he powered his way into the end zone with help from a push by his offensive linemen.

Oakland managed just six points the rest of the way against a defense fortified by the offseason additions of former All-Pro Peters, Aqib Talib and Ndamukong Suh.

Carr threw an interception in the end zone to John Johnson in the second quarter, another in the fourth when he tried to pull back a pass at the last minute only to have the ball slip out and float right to linebacker Cory Littleton, and then the third on a miscommunication with Cook.

"He did some good things tonight and obviously there are some critical errors he has to eliminate," Gruden said. "He knows that. We all know that."

Here are some other takeaways from the game:

Find a rhythm: The Rams started slowly after resting their entire starting offense throughout the preseason, as well as several key defensive players.

But things turned in the second half, starting with quarterback Jared Goff leading the team to a tying field goal on the opening drive. Then they took the lead for good on a 58-yard, four-play drive that featured two passes downfield to another offseason addition, Bran-

din Cooks, and an 8-yard TD to Cooper Kupp.

"Any first game of the year, you're dealing with some things," Goff said. "You look at other teams around the league and it's no different for us."

Cook's night: Cook was one of the only Raiders to have a big night. He caught nine passes for 180 yards, breaking Todd Christensen's franchise record for receiving yards by a tight end. Christensen had 173 vs. the Chargers on Nov. 20, 1986.

Oh, snap: The Raiders got thrown for a loop early when long snapper Andrew DePaola injured his knee on a punt in the first quarter and didn't return. Tight end Lee Smith filled in and provided accurate snaps on two field goals. He had a high snap on a punt, but Johnny Townsend leaped and brought it down with no issues.

"It was stressful, I can't even lie to you guys," Smith said. "I'm just glad they all got back there."

Darnold, Jets rout Lions after rough start

Associated Press

DETROIT — Sam Darnold showed he could recover from a careless mistake — a promising trait for any rookie quarterback.

What the New York Jets displayed on defense and special teams may have been even more encouraging for Darnold and his teammates.

Darnold threw an interception on the very first snap of his NFL career — and it was run back for a Detroit touchdown — but New York's quarterback shouldn't sweat that too much after the Jets stormed back and routed the Lions 48-17 on Monday night. Darnold threw for 198 yards and two touchdowns, and the Jets also scored on defense and special teams.

"We're going to play better every game, that's our goal," wide receiver Quincy Enunwa said. "Obviously, you can't always make it happen, that's going to be what we're striving for. All three phases being successful, scoring on all three phases. When you can do that, you can be a pretty good team."

Darnold earned the starting job after

the Jets drafted him third overall in this year's draft. His performance alone was cause for excitement Monday, but on this night, New York seemed to have a pretty solid cast around him as well. The Jets intercepted Matthew Stafford four times in a dismal debut for new Lions coach Matt Patricia.

"Give the Jets credit. They obviously are the ones that played well tonight," Patricia said. "We have to do better, I have to coach better and we have to play better."

New York scored 31 unanswered points in the final 9:36 of the third quarter after the Lions had tied it at 17. Darron Lee returned an interception for a touchdown, and Andre Roberts scored on a 78-yard punt return 67 seconds later.

What we learned from New York's resounding win:

Rebound: Darnold's start to this game was pretty much the worst-case scenario. On the first play from scrimmage, his ill-advised throw sailed toward the left sideline and was picked off by Quandre Diggs, who returned it 37 yards for a 7-0 lead. That was Darnold's only major error, how-

ever. He not only showed he could play well in prime time on the road, he also showed he could handle adversity.

The 21-year-old Darnold was the youngest quarterback to start a season opener since the 1970 AFL-NFL merger. He was also the first quarterback to win his first start by 31 or more points since Tom Brady in 2001, per ESPN Stats & Info.

Stuck in neutral: The Lions were unimpressive in the preseason, but it's always tough to tell how much that really matters. This opener confirmed this team has issues. It was the most lopsided loss for Detroit in an opener since a 45-0 shellacking at Washington in 1991. (Of course, the Lions ended up making the NFC title game that season).

Detroit had scored at least 25 points in seven straight season openers, an NFL record. That streak is now over.

Perhaps most distressing, the Jets said they had a read on Stafford's signals.

"We were calling out their plays as he was getting up to the line," Lee said.

The Lions ended up with 39 yards on 15 carries. Blount ran four times for minus-3 yards. Not a good sign.

Bradley tops Rose in playoff

Associated Press

NEWTOWN SQUARE, Pa. — Keegan Bradley had bottomed out, crashing from the high of winning the PGA Championship to tumbling out of the top 100 in the world. His chances to represent U.S. teams in international play had dried up, his preferred putting method was banned, and the confidence that once put him on the cusp of greatness was shot.

“It’s scary when I look back, because I didn’t know I needed this much improvement,” Bradley said.

He was like a scientist in the lab, changing his swing, his putting stroke, his fundamentals — investing in the work needed to get to where he was Monday on soggy Aronimink: going head-to-head in a sudden-death playoff against the new No. 1 player in the world, Justin Rose.

For a player who had to reinvent his game, the clutch moment didn’t seem so scary.

Bradley topped Rose with a par on the first playoff hole to win the rain-plagued BMW Championship for his first PGA

Tour victory in six years.

Bradley’s fourth career win meant a bit more than the others — yes, even the major he won in 2011 — because he held more than a trophy and a \$1.62 million check. He also got to give his young son Logan a victory toss in the air on the 18th green for the first time. Bradley, who shot a final round 6-under 64 to finish at 20-under 260, thrust his arms toward the gray sky and drizzle in celebration and waved his family toward him to bring them in for a lengthy embrace.

Rose left Aronimink with a new reality as well. Though he was runner-up at the FedEx Cup playoff event, he didn’t come up short in the world ranking. Rose moved No. 1 in the world ahead of Dustin Johnson and became the 22nd player to reach the top spot since the ranking began in 1986.

Rose could have won in regulation, but his 16-foot par putt on the final hole lipped out to force the playoff.

He fell short again in the playoff, missing a 5-foot par putt that would have kept him

alive. The 38-year-old Rose had grown to love suburban Philadelphia golf courses with wins at the 2010 AT&T National at Aronimink and the 2013 U.S. Open at Merion.

He didn’t get a trophy on this trip. But a No. 1 ranking will do for Rose, who joins Nick Faldo, Lee Westwood and Luke Donald as the only Englishmen to reach the top spot. He is the No. 2 seed behind Bryson DeChambeau among the top 30 who advance to the Tour Championship starting Sept. 20 at East Lake in Atlanta, giving him a clear shot at the \$10 million prize.

“I’m delighted to be world No. 1,” Rose said. “Boyhood dreams, you know what I mean?”

Tiger Woods had a 72-hole score of 263 for the sixth time of his career. The other five times he won; this one got him a tie for sixth.

Jordan Spieth started 27th in the FedEx Cup standings and took a step backward, finishing with a 73 to tie for 55th. He fell out of the top 30 and will miss the Tour Championship for the first time.

Teams make changes for hurricane

Associated Press

With Hurricane Florence bearing down on the Carolinas’ coastline, conferences and schools are monitoring the strengthening storm’s progress and exploring contingencies for games this week.

The National Hurricane Center issued an advisory Monday that the storm is expected to approach the North or South Carolina coast Thursday as an “extremely dangerous major hurricane.”

That is the same day that Wake Forest hosts Boston College in an Atlantic Coast Conference matchup in Winston-Salem. That game will be played, but the ACC announced Tuesday that it will start at 5:30 p.m., two hours earlier than scheduled in an attempt to beat the storm.

North Carolina’s game against No. 18 UCF and North Carolina State’s home game against No. 14 West Virginia won’t take place Saturday.

The Tar Heels were set to play their first home game in Chapel Hill after two road losses. But UNC announced Tuesday afternoon that the game wouldn’t be played as scheduled, though the schools will continue discussions on whether to play the game later this season.

UNC’s bye weekend is Oct. 6 but UCF hosts SMU that day in an American Athletic Conference matchup. UCF’s only open weekend comes Oct. 27, but that’s when the Tar Heels visit Virginia.

North Carolina State and West Virginia announced the change Tuesday afternoon, citing the “increasing likelihood of severe and unsafe conditions.” The school said the decision came after discussions with West Virginia, the ACC and emergency management officials.

Florence had strengthened into a Category 4 storm by Monday afternoon with maximum sustained winds near 130 mph, according to the hurricane center.

Keselowski gets Brickyard win

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — First, Brad Keselowski figured out the secret to restarting at the Brickyard 400.

Then he safely and strategically bumped his way into the lead and sped to the finish line.

One year after settling for second in a chaotic, crash-marred race last year, Keselowski redeemed himself by earning his second straight major win and finally giving team owner Roger Penske the elusive Brickyard win.

The 2010 Cup champion got past race leader Denny Hamlin on the second-to-last lap and beat Erik Jones to the finish line by 0.904 seconds. Hamlin finished third.

“Last year, I lost this race almost the exact same way. To bring it home this way, after messing up last year, is just incredible,” Keselowski said. “We were hoping this would be No. 500 and the Brickyard, but that’s all right.”

Penske certainly won’t be complaining about getting win No. 499 on the same historic 2.5-mile oval where he has won a record 17 Indianapolis

500 crowns.

His first win at his favorite racing venue came on one of the rare days he wasn’t actually attending in the pits for the rain-delayed race.

But Penske now joins Chip Ganassi as the only owners to win the Indy double in the same season. Will Power captured his first 500 win in May, while Dario Franchitti and Jamie McMurray both won at the Brickyard in 2010 for Ganassi.

The timing couldn’t be better for Keselowski. He heads into the first round of the playoffs with momentum following wins at the Southern 500 and the Brickyard.

And he earned this one the hard way.

He stayed close off the final restart with three laps to go, then quickly chased down Hamlin, running side by side with the race leader briefly on Lap 159. At one point, the cars touched but both drivers maintained control and Keselowski made the decisive move in the front straightaway just as the white flag started to come out.

Nobody got close again.

Brewers trim Cubs' division lead to 1

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Right after Tommy La Stella struck out swinging for the final out, Jeremy Jeffress pounded his glove with his right hand and Erik Kratz pumped his right arm in jubilation.

Forget about the wild-card standings. The Milwaukee Brewers are fighting for the NL Central title.

Lorenzo Cain had four hits, Mike Moustakas scored on Carl Edwards Jr.'s wild pitch in the sixth inning and the Brewers beat the Chicago Cubs 3-2 on Monday night to move within one game of the division leaders.

"That's a great team over there. They're not going to go away," Moustakas said. "They're not going to just give it up, so

we've got to go out there every single day, keep fighting, keep grinding and go to win a ballgame each and every night."

Orlando Arcia and Jonathan Schoop each drove in a run as Milwaukee (83-62) won for the seventh time in eight games. It's the closest the Brewers have been to the division lead since they trailed the Cubs by a game on Aug. 5.

Milwaukee also battled Chicago for the NL Central title last season, but the Cubs pulled away down the stretch and the Brewers missed the playoffs. It looks as if the returning Brewers learned from what happened in 2017.

"I think being in the moment a year later helps these guys," manager Craig Counsell said. "You know how you feel be-

cause you feel different in these moments."

Wade Miley (4-2) pitched five effective innings before Corbin Burnes, Josh Hader and Jeffress closed it out for wild card-leading Milwaukee. Burnes worked a scoreless sixth, Hader struck out six straight batters and Jeffress got three outs for his 11th save.

Back home after a soggy weekend in Washington, Chicago (83-60) lost for the fifth time in seven games. Ben Zobrist had two of the Cubs' five hits, and Kris Bryant drove in a run.

"We've just not been making that kind of hard contact that we're capable of," manager Joe Maddon said. "So more than anything, that was tonight. You can dice it up any way you

want, but just to score two runs again — we have to be more offensively."

The game was tied at 2 when Maddon and a trainer came out to check on Jon Lester after the left-hander retired the first two batters in the sixth. Lester (15-6) stayed in the game after a short conversation, and the Brewers pounced.

Moustakas singled and Kratz doubled to right, putting runners on second and third. Lester then departed with lower back tightness, and Moustakas scampered home when Edwards missed badly on his first pitch to Arcia.

Lester allowed eight hits, struck out seven and walked two in his first loss since Aug. 11. The All-Star said he thinks his back will be fine.

Roundup

Astros' Verlander tops Tigers in 1st trip back to Detroit

Associated Press

DETROIT — Justin Verlander drew several big cheers and pitched seven sharp innings in his return to Comerica Park while leading the Houston Astros over the Detroit Tigers 3-2 Monday night.

Verlander struck out 10 in his first game in Detroit since being traded to Houston in August 2017. The World Series champion Astros opened a three-game lead over Oakland atop the AL West.

Verlander (15-9) made his major league debut with Detroit in 2005 and ranks among the top 10 on several of the team's career pitching lists.

The 35-year-old righty received a long standing ovation after a video tribute was played as he walked in from the bullpen, and another when he came out to warm up for the first inning. Both times, he tipped his cap and waved to the crowd.

Verlander allowed two runs on six hits and one walk, improving to 98-50 at Comerica Park.

The Tigers put two runners on in the seventh, but Verland-

er struck out JaCoby Jones and Jeimer Candelario to escape with a 3-2 lead. He received a third standing ovation after the inning, having thrown 104 pitches.

Roberto Osuna worked the ninth for his 16th save, including seven with Houston.

Francisco Liriano (4-10) allowed three unearned runs in six innings.

Rockies 13, Diamondbacks 2: Trevor Story hit a three-run homer during a six-run fifth inning, German Marquez struck out 11 in seven masterful innings and host Colorado routed Arizona to increase its lead in the NL West.

The Rockies moved 1½ games ahead of the Los Angeles Dodgers, who lost at Cincinnati. The Diamondbacks now trail by 3½ games. This is the latest the Rockies have been alone atop the division since 1995.

David Dahl put the game out of reach with his first career grand slam in a seven-run seventh.

Reds 10, Dodgers 6: Scooter Gennett had four hits and three RBIs, Joey Votto hit a two-run

double on his 35th birthday and host Cincinnati improved to 5-0 against Los Angeles this season.

Eugenio Suarez homered for the last-place Reds, and Jose Peraza scored three runs.

Cardinals 8, Pirates 7: Matt Adams hit a three-run homer in the eighth inning to rally host St. Louis past Pittsburgh.

The Cardinals, who overcame deficits of 4-0 and 6-4, moved two games ahead of the Dodgers in the race for the second NL wild card.

Josh Harrison, Colin Moran and Starling Marte homered for the Pirates.

Rays 6, Indian 5: Ji-Man Choi hit a two-run homer off Brad Hand with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning, and Tampa Bay beat Cleveland to set a team record with its 12th straight victory at home.

Cleveland ace Corey Kluber was chased in the second inning, but the Indians rallied before blowing a late lead.

Yankees 7, Twins 2: Gary Sanchez had three hits, including a mammoth home run, J.A. Happ tossed six shutout innings and visiting New York extended

its mastery of Minnesota.

The Yankees increased their lead over idle Oakland to three games for the first AL wild card.

New York has beaten Minnesota nine straight times, including last year's wild-card game.

Braves 4, Giants 1: Sean Newcomb pitched six strong innings, Ozzie Albies sparked the offense with two extra-base hits and visiting Atlanta defeated San Francisco.

Rangers 5, Angels 2: Ronald Guzman homered, Joey Gallo drove in three runs and Mike Minor threw six solid innings to help visiting Texas end a four-game losing streak with a win over Los Angeles.

Royals 4, White Sox 3 (10): White Sox reliever Jeanmar Gomez threw away a bunt in the 10th inning, giving host Kansas City a win over Chicago.

Brian Goodwin led off the Royals 10th with a double. Alcides Escobar bunted and Gomez (0-2) made a wild toss over third baseman Yolmer Sanchez, letting Goodwin score.