

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

US consulate in Iraq temporarily shut

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The State Department said Friday that it would temporarily close the U.S. consulate in the southern Iraqi city of Basra following a rocket attack earlier this month blamed on Iranian-backed militias.

Diplomatic staff and their families were being evacuated, and consular services will be provided from the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called it a “temporary relocation” in response to what he called “increasing and specific threats” from the Iranian government and militias under its control. He warned that the U.S. would respond to any more attacks.

“I have advised the Government of Iran

that the United States will hold Iran directly responsible for any harm to Americans or to our diplomatic facilities in Iraq or elsewhere and whether perpetrated by Iranian forces directly or by associated proxy militias,” he said.

Basra hosts one of three U.S. diplomatic missions in Iraq. It is the country’s oil capital and main port but remains one of the least developed parts of the country. It has been shaken by violent protests in recent months over entrenched corruption and poor public services.

Earlier this month, protesters turned their rage on neighboring Iran, blaming its outsized influence in Iraq’s political affairs for their misery. They stormed the Iranian consulate and set it on fire, causing significant damage.

About a week later, after a Shiite militia vowed revenge for the attack on the Ira-

nian consulate, three Katyusha rockets were fired at Basra’s airport, which houses the U.S. consulate. No casualties were reported.

Pompeo tweeted last Tuesday that Iran-supported militias had launched the attacks, warning, “We’ll hold Iran’s regime accountable for any attack on our personnel or facilities and respond swiftly and decisively in defense of American lives.”

The temporary closure of the Basra consulate comes as the Trump administration is increasing pressure on Iran ahead of powerful sanctions set to take effect in November.

The Trump administration withdrew from the landmark 2015 deal with Iran in May and has been gradually reintroducing sanctions against the government in Tehran.

Trump calls Ford testimony ‘compelling’; backs Kavanaugh

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said he found the testimony by a woman who said she was sexually assaulted by Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh decades ago to be “very compelling,” but added that he’d given no consideration to the idea of nominating someone else.

“Not even a little bit,” Trump said Friday.

The president told reporters that Christine Blasey Ford “was a very credible witness” but also that Kavanaugh’s own testimony on Thursday before the Senate Judiciary Committee was “an incredible moment.”

Reiterating his support for Kavanaugh, Trump said, “I think it will work out very well for the country.”

The president also expressed confidence in the confirmation process as an 11th-hour demand from a key Republican senator again threatened to derail the

timeline for a Senate vote.

“I’m going to let the Senate handle that. They’ll make their decisions, and they’ve been doing a good job and very professional,” he said. “I’m sure it will all be very good.”

The White House had resisted calls for another investigation, as Kavanaugh denied allegations of sexual misconduct in fiery testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee Thursday. But the White House’s hand was forced Friday by the announcement by Arizona Republican Sen. Jeff Flake that he would not vote in Kavanaugh’s favor without a follow-on probe.

Trump said in a statement that the updated investigation “must be limited in scope” and “completed in less than one week.”

On Twitter later Friday, Trump wrote: “Just started, tonight, our 7th FBI investigation of Judge Brett Kavanaugh. He will someday be recognized as a truly great Justice of The Unit-

ed States Supreme Court!”

Trump missed hardly a moment of Thursday’s hearing, relying on DVRs to keep up on the hearing from his private office on Air Force One as he traveled from New York to Washington, and continuing to monitor it back at the White House, where Ford’s voice echoed from TVs around the building.

Within moments of the eight-hour proceedings concluding, Trump tweeted his approval of Kavanaugh’s performance and called on the Senate to move swiftly to a vote. “His testimony was powerful, honest, and riveting,” Trump said. “Democrats’ search and destroy strategy is disgraceful and this process has been a total sham and effort to delay, obstruct, and resist. The Senate must vote!”

Ford’s tearful recounting of allegations that Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her when they were in high school led Trump to express sympathy for Kavanaugh and his family for having

to listen to the testimony, according to two Republicans close to the White House but not authorized to speak publicly about private conversations. They added that Trump expressed some frustration at the process — and the staff work — that led Kavanaugh to this point.

After seeing Ford’s powerful testimony, White House aides and allies expressed concern that Kavanaugh, whose nomination already seemed to be teetering, would have difficulty delivering a showing strong enough to match hers.

White House officials believe Kavanaugh’s passionate denials of Ford’s claims, including the judge’s tearful description of the impact the accusations had on his family, met the challenge. A White House official who was not authorized to speak publicly said the West Wing saw the judge’s opening statement as “game-changing” and said Trump appeared to react positively.

Trump signs defense spending measure

BY CLAUDIA GRISALES
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Friday signed into law a \$670 billion defense spending measure that includes money for the largest boost to servicemembers' pay in nearly 10 years and increases in troops, equipment and weapons for the 2019 fiscal year, The Associated Press reported.

The "minibus" appropriations measure is part of a larger package of more than \$850 billion to fund labor, health and human services and education priorities. It also funds priorities directed in the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act.

Trump's approval Friday marks the first time in about 10 years that the Defense Department won't operate under a temporary funding measure, otherwise known as a continuing resolution, for the start of its fiscal year. The 2019 fiscal year begins Monday.

"This package continues a historic increase in funding for our nation's defense, helping the president deliver on his commitment to rebuild the military," said Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

On Wednesday, the House passed the

measure by a vote of 361-61, sending the bill to Trump. The Senate approved the legislation Sept. 18 in a vote of 93 to 7, sending the bill to the House.

The defense budget moves on two tracks: The annual NDAA directs policy and spending plans for the military, while the defense appropriations bill is what actually moves money to the Pentagon.

Trump signed the 2019 NDAA into law Aug. 13, ushering in a series of new policy reforms, such as revamping the military's "up or out" promotion system and policies to reign in sexual misconduct and domestic abuse among the ranks. The \$716 billion NDAA also authorizes a 2.6 percent pay raise for servicemembers, as well as new purchases of aircraft, ships, submarines and weapons.

The NDAA directs funding for the Defense Department, as well as atomic energy defense activities under the Energy Department. Because it funds additional agencies, the NDAA directs larger spending priorities than its appropriations counterpart legislation, said Andrew Sherbo, a University of Denver finance professor who has tracked government and defense budget issues.

Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-Texas, chair-

man of the House Armed Services Committee, had said last week that he was confident Trump would sign the legislation into law.

"If you step back and look at what are the two biggest accomplishments of the Trump administration, it's been economic growth and rebuilding the military," Thornberry said Wednesday. "Signing this bill that we are going to pass today is the most significant step towards rebuilding the military because they will have a whole year to efficiently use that money."

Several times this year, Trump threatened a veto of spending measures if Congress didn't include significant funding for a southern border wall, a move that could have triggered a government shutdown. But later Wednesday, Trump said he would keep the government open.

H.R. 6157 also includes a continuing resolution to fund agencies that aren't covered by the minibus appropriations bill until Dec. 7 to avert a partial government shutdown.

Lawmakers have lauded the plan's boosting of pay and troop levels, its funding of 13 new Navy ships, 93 F-35 aircraft, 18 C-130J aircraft, 58 UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters and 13 V-22 aircraft, and the upgrading of 135 Abrams tanks.

Naval War College institute to focus on cyberwarfare

The Providence (R.I.) Journal

NEWPORT, R.I. — The ever-increasing threat of disruption and destruction from cyberwarfare has prompted the Naval War College to establish a new institute devoted to the study, research and gaming of this 21st-century weaponry.

The Adm. James R. Hogg Cyber and Innovation Policy Institute will replace and build upon the previous work of the college's Center for Cyber Conflict Studies.

College President Rear Adm. Jeffrey A. Harley said the name of the new institute and its expanded mission serve two purposes:

"First, we are recognizing the exceptional contributions of retired Adm. James Hogg and the lasting impact he has had, continues to have and will continue to have on both the Navy and here at the Naval War College. Second, we are recognizing the critical importance of cyber and the need to stay at the cutting edge of research, education and fleet support at the Naval War College on cyber and military innovation

issues."

According to the college, Peter Dombrowski, who formerly chaired the institution's Strategic Research Department, will be the interim institute director while a search is conducted for the first permanent director.

Meanwhile, Chris Demchak, founding director of the Center for Cyber Conflict Studies, will continue as a professor of cybersecurity and will be the senior cyberspace scholar at the new institute.

Other principals include associate professor Nina A. Kollars, who also is a non-resident fellow at West Point's Modern War Institute, and assistant professor Jacquelyn Schneider, an Air Force intelligence veteran and political psychologist whose work has appeared in *The Washington Post*, the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* and *War on the Rocks*, a popular defense-policy publication.

What differentiates the new institute from others of its kind, Schneider told the *Journal*, "is first and foremost, the ability to answer cyber questions about the

maritime domain in modern warfare. We can do that at the operational and strategic level and have the capability to answer both unclassified questions at the highest policy levels as well as the classified needs of top Navy consumers."

Schneider said the college's long history of war gaming will be important.

"We will be bringing together the leaders of national and international policy to play games on questions ranging from the impact of cyberoperations on nuclear stability, to examining responses to cyber campaigns against the financial sector, to exploring the impact that cyber operations play in maritime warfare," she said. "And we will do it in the same building where Naval War College students and innovators gamed the campaigns of the Pacific prior to World War II."

Schneider added that the hiring of Kollars, "an expert on innovation as well as white-hat hacking communities," will help with the objectives of "manpower reform, public-private-sector collaboration and institutional adaptation to cyberthreats."

Judge rules Dem lawmakers can sue president over emoluments

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A federal district judge in Washington ruled on Friday that a group of nearly 200 Democratic senators and representatives have legal standing to sue President Donald Trump to prove he violated the U.S. Constitution's emoluments provision banning the acceptance of gifts from foreign and domestic interests.

The U.S. District Court Judge Emmet Sullivan found that lawmakers have shown adequately that they've suffered harm from the president's alleged violation of the emoluments clause, which bans benefits from foreign governments unless a majority of both houses of Congress consent.

The ruling was the second time a federal court judge has decided to advance such unprecedented constitutional lawsuits against the president. A federal judge in Maryland ruled in July that a similar lawsuit against Trump filed by the attorneys general for Maryland and the District of Colum-

bia could proceed, but only as pertained to earnings from Trump's Washington hotel.

To allow the lawsuit to proceed, Sullivan said he would "accept as true the allegations that the President has accepted prohibited foreign emoluments without seeking the consent of Congress."

Justice Department spokeswoman Kelly Laco said in a statement that the government believes this case should be dismissed and "will continue to defend the President in court."

The lawyers representing 198 congressional Democrats were led by Sen. Richard Blumenthal, a Connecticut Democrat who, along with his colleagues, has argued that Trump isn't letting them do their jobs. He praised Sullivan's ruling. "This is a bombshell victory enabling us to move forward to hold the president accountable for violating the chief corruption prohibition in the United States' Constitution," Blumenthal told The Associated Press. "President Trump has been violating it repeatedly with impunity

and now we as members need to hold him accountable."

The Democrats' attorney, Elizabeth Wydra, who is president of the nonprofit Constitutional Accountability Center and argued the case in court, said that "by recognizing that members of Congress have standing to sue, the court proved to all in America today that no one is above the law, not even the president."

The case argues that the president has received foreign government favors, such as Chinese government trademarks for his companies, payments for hotel room stays and event-space rentals by representatives of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, and proceeds from Chinese or Emirati-linked government purchases of office space in Trump Tower.

Ethics experts say the constitutional emoluments clause was created by the Founding Fathers to ensure that government officials act with the interests of the American public in mind instead of their own pocketbooks.

Facebook reports big breach in security

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Facebook reported a major security breach in which 50 million user accounts were accessed by unknown attackers.

The attackers gained the ability to "seize control" of those user accounts, Facebook said, by stealing digital keys the company uses to keep users logged in. They could do so by exploiting three distinct bugs in Facebook's code.

The company said it has fixed the bugs and logged out the 50 million breached users — plus another 40 million who were vulnerable to the attack — in order to reset those digital keys. Users don't need to change their Facebook passwords, it said.

Facebook said it doesn't know who was behind the attacks or where they're based. In a call with reporters on Friday, CEO Mark Zuckerberg — whose own account was compromised — said that attackers would have had the ability to view private messages or post on someone's account, but there's no sign that they did.

"We do not yet know if any of the accounts were actually misused," Zuckerberg said.

The hack is the latest setback for Facebook during a tumultuous year of security problems and privacy issues. So far, though, none of these issues have significantly shaken the confidence of the company's 2 billion global users.

This latest hack involved bugs in Facebook's "View As" feature, which lets people see how their profiles appear to others. The attackers used that vulnerability to steal the digital keys, known as "access tokens," from the accounts of people whose profiles were searched for using the "View As" feature. The attack then moved along from one user's Facebook friend to another. Possession of those tokens would allow attackers to control those accounts.

Calif. bans gun sales to people under 21

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Most people under 21 won't be able to buy guns in California starting next year under a law Gov. Jerry Brown announced signing Friday.

It will prevent people under 21 from buying rifles and other types of guns. State law already bans people under 21 from buying handguns.

The new law exempts from the restriction law enforcement, members of the military and people with hunting licenses.

It was one of dozens of bills Brown took action on.

Democratic Sen. Anthony Portantino pointed to the shooting at a Florida high school

earlier this year that killed 17 people as the reason for his bill banning gun sales and transfers to people under 21.

"I was determined to help California respond appropriately to the tragic events our country has recently faced on high school campuses," Portantino said in a statement. "I feel it is imperative that California leads when Washington refuses to act."

Brown also signed a bill to prohibit gun ownership for people who have been hospitalized or otherwise placed on an involuntary psychiatric hold for risk of hurting themselves or others twice in one year.

That law would let those people ask a court every five years

to return their guns.

He also signed a bill to ban people with certain domestic violence misdemeanors from owning guns for life.

In addition to the gun-related bills, he vetoed a measure that would have let bars in some cities serve alcohol until 4 a.m.; he said it would result in more drunken driving.

California currently lets bars serve alcohol until 2 a.m.

"I believe we have enough mischief from midnight to 2 without adding two more hours of mayhem," he wrote in his veto message.

It would have allowed extended hours in nine California cities, including Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Afghanistan policeman kills 2 officers in 'insider' attack

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Two Afghan police officers were gunned down by a fellow policeman in southern Kandahar province, the latest in so-called "insider" attacks in the war-battered country, a spokesman said Saturday.

According to Aziz Ahmad Azizi, the provincial governor's spokesman, three other policemen were wounded in the attack late Friday night.

The incident took place at a remote police outpost in Raghistan district. Azizi said the attacker, who had joined the police force about a year ago, was able to flee the area.

A police investigation has been launched into the attack. No militant group immediately claimed responsibility but blame is likely to fall on the Taliban.

In other developments, six Afghan soldiers were injured when a military helicopter crash-landed in northern Parwan province on Saturday afternoon, Ghafor Ahmad Jawed, spokesman for the Afghan defense ministry, said.

Jawed said the crash, which occurred in Koh-e Safi district, was caused by a technical malfunction and was not the result of enemy fire.

Disastrous quake, tsunami kill hundreds in Indonesia

Associated Press

PALU, Indonesia — An earthquake-spawned tsunami swept away buildings and killed at least several hundred people on the central Indonesian island of Sulawesi, dumping victims across a devastated landscape that rescuers were struggling to reach Saturday, hindered by damaged roads and broken communications.

Disaster agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said 384 people were killed in the hard-hit city of Palu alone.

The nearby city of Donggala and the town of Mamuju also were ravaged by the magnitude 7.5 earthquake and tsunami but had not yet been reached by aid due to damaged roads and disrupted telecommunications.

Nugroho said "tens to hundreds" of people were taking part in a beach festival in Palu when the tsunami struck at dusk on Friday. Their fate was unknown.

In some places, the water rose as high as 20 feet.

"We got a report over the phone saying that there was a guy who climbed a tree up to 6 meters (about 19½ feet) high," Nugroho said.

Palu, which has more than 380,000 people, was strewn with debris from collapsed buildings. A mosque heavily damaged by the quake was half-submerged, and a shopping mall was reduced to a crumpled hulk. A large bridge with yellow arches had collapsed. Bodies lay partially covered by tarpaulins, and a man carried a dead child through the wreckage.

The city is built around a narrow bay that apparently magnified the force of the tsunami waters as they raced into the tight inlet. Indonesian TV showed dramatic smartphone video of a powerful wave hitting Palu, with people screaming and running in fear. The water smashed into buildings and the damaged mosque.

Hundreds of people were injured, and hospitals — damaged by the quake — were overwhelmed.

Communications with the area were difficult because power and telecommunications were cut, hampering search-and-rescue efforts.

"We hope there will be international satellites crossing over Indonesia that can capture images and provide them to us so we can use the images to prepare humanitarian aid," Nugroho said.

Indonesia is a vast archipelago of more than 17,000 islands that are home to 260 million people. Roads and infrastructure are poor in many areas, making access difficult in the best of conditions.

The disaster agency has said essential aircraft can land at Palu's airport, though AirNav, which oversees aircraft navigation, said the runway was cracked and the control tower damaged.

AirNav said one of its air-traffic controllers, 21, died in the quake after staying in the tower to ensure a flight he'd just cleared for departure got airborne safely. It did.

Airline: 1 missing after plane crash in Pacific lagoon

Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — The airline operating a flight that crashed into a Pacific lagoon on Friday in Micronesia now says one man is missing after saying earlier that all 47 passengers and crew had evacuated the sinking plane safely.

Air Niugini said in a release that as of Saturday afternoon, it was unable to account for a male passenger. The airline said it was working with local authorities, hospitals and investigators to try to find the man.

The airline did not immediately respond to requests for more details about the passenger, such as his age or

nationality.

Local boats helped rescue the other passengers and crew after the plane hit the water while trying to land at the Chuuk Island airport.

Officials said Friday that seven people had been taken to a hospital. The airline said six passengers remained at the hospital Saturday and all of them were in stable condition.

What caused the crash and the exact sequence of events remains unclear. The airline and the U.S. Navy both said the plane landed in the lagoon short of the runway. Some witnesses thought the plane overshot the runway.

Passenger Bill Jaynes said

the plane came in very low.

"I thought we landed hard," he said. "Until I looked over and saw a hole in the side of the plane and water was coming in. And I thought, well, this is not the way it's supposed to happen."

Jaynes said he and others managed to wade through waist-deep water to the emergency exits on the sinking plane. He said the flight attendants were panicking and yelling, and that he suffered a minor head injury.

"I was really impressed with the locals who immediately started coming out in boats," Jaynes said in an interview with a missionary in Chuuk,

Matthew Colson, that was posted online and shared with the AP.

The U.S. Navy said sailors working nearby on improving a wharf also helped in the rescue by using an inflatable boat to shuttle people ashore before the plane sank in about 100 feet of water.

Air Niugini is the national airline of Papua New Guinea and has operated since 1973. Data from the Aviation Safety Network indicates 111 people have died in crashes of PNG-registered airlines in the past two decades but none involved Air Niugini.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Vet holding yard sales for funeral gets help

PA BROWNSTOWN — Two friends who set up a GoFundMe page for a Pennsylvania man who'd been holding yard sales to pay for his own funeral expenses said they've received so many donations they're planning to help other veterans in similar situations.

David Dunkleberger and his friend Ed Sheets pulled into a yard sale in Brownstown last month. The man running it, Willie Davis, 66, was selling his belongings to pay for his funeral.

Davis, who served in the Navy in the 1970s, has stage 4 squamous cell carcinoma, a type of skin cancer.

Dunkleberger initially set a \$6,000 goal then raised it to \$40,000. By Friday morning, nearly \$50,000 had been donated.

GoFundMe says they'll work with the campaign organizers to make sure excess funds are managed appropriately.

'Body' in garbage bag turns out to be sex doll

OH CINCINNATI — Police in Ohio say a body reported near a park turned out to be a sex doll.

Authorities said Hamilton County engineers called Colerain police Thursday afternoon when they spotted what they thought was a body near Richardson Forest Preserve. Police say the figure was wrapped in a garbage bag and had been abandoned on a hillside.

Colerain Police Chief Mark Denney said officers pulled the figure out of the bag and discovered it was a life-size female sex doll. Authorities said the doll looked lifelike from a distance.

Satellite photographs astronaut corn maze

OK HYDRO — It's apt that a maze cut into an Oklahoma cornfield featuring the likeness of a former NASA astronaut can be seen from space — and has been photographed by a satellite orbiting Earth.

The image of Oklahoma-born Thomas P. Stafford is cut into a 10-acre field at P Bar Farms in Hydro, about 60 miles west of Oklahoma City.

The maze was created in partnership with the Stafford Air and Space Museum, named for the astronaut, in nearby Weatherford.

A satellite photographed the tribute from its orbit 400 miles away.

Stafford, 88, is a Weatherford native whose space missions included commanding the Apollo flight that linked with a Soviet spacecraft in 1975.

Man accused of taking 150 lbs. of waffle mix

GA PEACHTREE CITY — A Georgia man is accused of stealing 150 pounds of waffle mix from a former employer and flipping it to a syrupy stream of buyers.

Peachtree City police spokeswoman Lt. Odilia Bergh told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution on Thursday that Brandon Lee Nelson, 33, was charged with burglary.

Police said Nelson drove to his former employer's storage facility in August and stole five boxes of Golden Malted waffle batter. Bergh said Nelson then covertly sold it to buyers who contacted him about the stolen dough.

Bergh said Nelson later was identified on surveillance video of the theft and arrested this month.

Duck hunter stuck in mud for half a day

ME STACYVILLE — A man who found himself stuck in the mud is now free.

WMTW-TV reported that game wardens rescued a duck hunter early Wednesday morning in northern Penobscot County.

Wardens said that at 2 a.m. Wednesday they found the 57-year-old man standing on top of his boat in waist-deep water. The man had been standing there since 2 p.m. Tuesday.

The man's wife had called wardens and said he was overdue from a hunting trip.

City has first electric scooter DUI case

CA LOS ANGELES — A Los Angeles man was fined \$550 and ordered to pay restitution for riding an electric scooter while intoxicated and knocking over a 64-year-old pedestrian on a sidewalk.

The LA City Attorney's Office said Thursday the prosecution of Nicholas Kauffroath, 28, was the first motorized scooter DUI incident charged in Los Angeles.

The office said Kauffroath had a blood-alcohol level more than three times the limit Aug. 4 while operating a Bird scooter.

The pedestrian was knocked down while leaving a theater and suffered a knee abrasion while the rider continued on.

Kauffroath pleaded no contest to operating a motorized scooter while under the influence and hit-and-run.

He was also placed on 36 months of probation and required to complete a DUI program.

Lunching deputies foil halfway house escape

PA PITTSBURGH — Authorities said two men trying to escape from a Pittsburgh halfway house were thwarted when they were spotted by two sheriff's deputies eating lunch at a neighboring courts building.

Allegheny County Sgt. Tom Ninehouser and Deputy Jon Monaco were in the Pittsburgh Municipal Courts building when they saw Chad St. Clair of Smithfield and Matthew Comer of Pittsburgh coming down a back fire escape at the Renewal building.

When the deputies confronted the men, authorities said St. Clair quickly surrendered.

Comer tried to flee on foot but was soon caught by Monaco after a brief scuffle in which Monaco suffered undisclosed injuries.

Bed bug scare knocks out several NYC buses

NY NEW YORK — At least half a dozen New York City buses have been taken out of service due to concerns about bed bugs.

WABC-TV reports the buses were quarantined outside the Kingsbridge Bus Depot after drivers believed the little creatures were crawling on the seats of at least six buses in the past three weeks.

A spokesman for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority said Monday the presence of bed bugs has not been confirmed. He said the buses were isolated as a precautionary measure.

Union shop steward Michael Enriquez said you don't usually see buses knocked out for bed bugs. He said it "seems to be an epidemic that's spreading."

From wire reports

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Mayfield brings brash swagger to Browns

Associated Press

BEREA, Ohio— Baker Mayfield dragged more than a Heisman Trophy with him into the NFL. There was other baggage, including a well-earned reputation as being cocky, fiery, brash and over-the-top.

He hasn't changed much.

And that's what the Browns love about their rookie starting quarterback, who didn't need long to firmly plant his own flag in Cleveland.

"He walk it," receiver Jarvis Landry said, "like he talk it."

As Mayfield prepares to make his first pro start in a few days at Oakland, his confidence isn't the only thing impressing teammates eager to see if the No. 1 overall pick can build upon his sensational debut last week against the New York Jets — a stunning performance that prompted coach Hue Jackson to switch QBs.

While he is on the verge of his first visit to play in front of the Raiders' notoriously rowdy "Black Hole," Mayfield is showing no fear or signs of complacency.

The 23-year-old did not speak to reporters on Wednesday and the only time he was seen in Cleveland's locker room was to grab the playbook out of his locker.

"He's been real focused," said left guard Joel Bitonio, one of the team's captains. "He's taken the lead in a few meetings just because that's what the starting quarterback does."

Sooner than the Browns or anyone expected, Mayfield has risen on the depth chart and vaulted from high-profile backup and future QB to the present one.

And while it may have happened quickly, Mayfield has shown since the moment the Browns (1-1) selected him he'd be prepared for this moment.

He's worked hard, shown humility and remained supportive of Tyrod Taylor, who remains in protocol with a concussion that hastened his benching.

Before he was drafted, Mayfield drew comparisons to Johnny Manziel, another Heisman winner who busted for the Browns. The Mayfield-Manziel

similarities though, seem to start and stop at their height.

"You hear people say, 'Oh, he's Johnny or he's this or he's that,' but since I've known him he's been a great guy," Bitonio said. "He's been in the building. He's a confident guy. I think people see that as a little bit of cockiness, but he's just confident in what he does and he understands you put in the work and he's ready to compete and he's ready to play."

"And that's all you want in a quarterback."

But with Mayfield, there's a little more.

It wasn't long after replacing Taylor during Thursday's nationally televised game when Mayfield started talking trash to the Jets' defensive linemen. That may have surprised a few of his new teammates, but it's nothing new for Mayfield, whose on-the-field antics in college didn't stop at choice words.

Mayfield loved to antagonize opponents, whether it was telling Kansas' fans to "stick to basketball" or celebrating a victory at Ohio State by spiking

an Oklahoma flag into the turf.

"I followed all that stuff, and again, it's that 'Walk it, Talk it,'" Landry said. "He definitely has that attitude and charisma, and that is contagious."

It remains to be seen how much of Mayfield's personality rubs off on his teammates. But Raiders coach Jon Gruden believes a quarterback's nature can mean as much as arm strength or mobility.

"Those are the intangibles that you look for that are hard to find," Gruden said on a conference call. "Do they like the pressure? Do they like the big moment? Some guys come alive, some guys don't. Some guys can bring out the best in their teammates. Some guys struggle to do that."

"But Mayfield has the magic about him. He has the charisma about him that really allows everybody on that team, defensively included, to play at a higher level. They know if we can get the ball back to this kid, something good's going to happen."

'Moliwood' has Europe close to reclaiming Ryder Cup

Associated Press

SAINT-QUENTIN-EN-YVELINES, France — Europe's latest Ryder Cup sensation is called "Moliwood," and what a show Francesco Molinari and Tommy Fleetwood produced at the Ryder Cup on Saturday.

And now for the final act.

Molinari and Fleetwood became the first European tandem to win all four matches, leading their team to the brink of regaining the Ryder Cup from an American team that had to rally just to keep the score close.

Tiger Woods hasn't won any of his three matches.

Phil Mickelson didn't even play.

Europe filled the board with blue in the morning, eventu-

ally winning three of the four matches in fourballs for its largest three-session lead in 14 years. It held on in foursomes, with Henrik Stenson delivering clutch putts in the only match that was close.

At the end of two days, Europe had a 10-6 lead.

The score should sound familiar.

That's the same deficit Europe faced in 2012 at Medinah when it produced the largest comeback on foreign soil. The Americans have never made up that much ground away from home, though they were the first to win after trailing 10-6, at Brookline in 1999 when they front-loaded the Sunday lineup with their biggest stars.

And that was on the mind of European captain Thomas Bjorn, even as he was drowned

out by thousands of fans using what was left of their voices to sing, "Ole, ole, ole, ole," the European anthem for these matches that Americans have heard far too often.

"I've seen too many times what the singles game does," Bjorn said. "We used a lot of energy these days. We go ahead tomorrow and focus on what's ahead and not what's done."

Even so, he couldn't contain a smile.

Europe brought five rookies to Le Golf National who sure didn't seem like them — Alex Noren and Fleetwood were the last two French Open champions on the Albatross Course — and certainly didn't play like them.

"We're really, really, really happy with how it's gone these past two days," Bjorn said.

If not for Jordan Spieth and Justin Thomas, the Americans might really be in trouble. They pulled ahead in a tight fourballs match to beat Ian Poulter and Jon Rahm for the lone American point in the morning that prevented Europe from a second straight sweep of a team session. They rallied from an early deficit against Poulter and Rory McIlroy in foursomes, with both delivering key shots and big putts. With four birdies over their last five holes, they won 4 and 3.

Mickelson will have to shake off some rust. He hasn't played since Friday in a foursomes loss that lasted only 14 holes. U.S. captain Jim Furyk said he would shake up the order for Saturday afternoon's foursomes, and that meant keeping Lefty on the bench.

High-priced NHL talent switched teams

Associated Press

It's rare for a franchise player in his prime to leave an NHL team via free agency or trade.

This offseason, it happened twice.

Toronto signed John Tavares away from the New York Islanders to make the biggest splash in free agency.

The 28-year-old center with a \$77 million, seven-year contract sounds motivated to validate his hometown Maple Leafs making such an investment in him.

"I think there's a lot to prove," Tavares said. "Resting on what you've already done is where you can kind of get caught especially as your career goes on. Every day, each season, you have to go out there and prove yourself again."

Tavares, a five-time All-Star, had 80-plus points last season for the third time and has averaged nearly 70 points over his nine-year career. And, he's regarded as one of the best two-way players in the league.

After missing out on the Tavares sweepstakes in July, San

Jose acquired 28-year-old defenseman Erik Karlsson from Ottawa two-plus months later.

"We were looking for a difference-maker," Sharks general manager Doug Wilson said. "There's not many of them in this league."

"There's not many of them that come available."

The Sharks gave up a package of young players and picks to get the five-time All-Star and two-time Norris Trophy winner to greatly improve their chances of competing for the Stanley Cup.

Here's a look at some of the other major moves, entering the season:

Staying put: The best players in the league usually are paid to stay with their teams and off the free agency market or in trade talks and this year has been no exception.

Los Angeles made sure two-time Stanley Cup-winning defenseman Drew Doughty, who won the Norris Trophy two years ago, wasn't going anywhere. The Kings signed him to an eight-year, \$88 million contract extension that keeps

him under contract through the 2026-27 season.

Tampa Bay kept leading scorer Nikita Kucherov off the market for a long time, signing him to an eight-year, \$76 million contract extension.

The Dallas Stars made a big commitment recently to center Tyler Seguin, giving him a \$78.8 million, eight-year extension after he had at least 72 points for the fifth season in a row.

Washington defenseman John Carlson could have cashed in elsewhere after winning a Cup and having a career-high 68 points. He chose, though, to re-sign with a \$64 million, eight-year deal to stay with the team that drafted him a decade ago.

Trade winds: The Vegas Golden Knights bolstered their shot at repeating as Western Conference champions by acquiring forward Max Pacioretty from Montreal earlier this month. They're expecting him to bounce back from an injury-shortened season to contribute 60-plus points as he has five times in his 10-year career.

The St. Louis Blues acquired center Ryan O'Reilly, who set an NHL record for winning 1,273 faceoffs last season, in the hopes of avoiding a second straight season without a playoff appearance.

Welcome back: The Kings beat out other suitors to sign Ilya Kovalchuk to a three-year, \$18.75 million contract. The 35-year-old, three-time All-Star forward has been playing in Russia since leaving New Jersey and the league in 2013.

Moving benches: Soon after helping Washington hoist the Stanley Cup and having a contract dispute, coach Barry Trotz left to lead the New York Islanders.

On the way out: Tampa Bay Lightning general manager Steve Yzerman raised eyebrows when he stepped down from his job to become an adviser entering the last year of his contract. Fans in Detroit are hoping that is a sign the Hall of Famer made the move to clear a path for him to return to run the Red Wings.

Tokyo 2020 begins search for 80,000 unpaid volunteers

Associated Press

TOKYO — Tokyo Olympic organizers began their search Wednesday for 80,000 unpaid volunteers to staff many of the venues when the Olympics and Paralympics open in just under two years.

The closing date for applications will be in December, although Tokyo 2020 organizers say they have not set a specific date.

Olympics volunteers are unpaid and typically must provide their own lodging, but they are given uniforms and free meals on the days they work.

The volunteer program has been a staple of the Olympics. Many volunteers relish the behind-the-scenes work, and many return to do it several times. But the program also

has detractors. At every Olympics, volunteers sign up, get the uniforms, and then don't show up for work — or complain about being unpaid even though agreeing to those terms.

The Rio de Janeiro Olympics two years ago had problems finding volunteers, particularly among the poor and working class who could not afford to work for free.

"Volunteers will be an essential part of the games' success in a variety of roles at competition venues and at the athletes' village," Tokyo 2020 spokesman Masa Takaya said in a statement.

Earlier this month during a visit of International Olympic Committee inspectors, a Japanese reporter told IOC member John Coates that complaints about the Olympic volunteer

system were surfacing, particularly in Japanese social media.

"They are hinting that it is similar to forced labor," the reporter said.

"Volunteers are volunteers," Coates replied. "And they don't have to apply if they don't want to."

A review of the volunteer system several years ago by the Associated Press indicated using unpaid volunteers saved the IOC and local organizers about \$100 million — perhaps more.

The IOC generates almost \$6 billion of revenue over a four-year Olympic cycle. The IOC says about 90 percent of the money goes back to national Olympic bodies, sports federations and local organizers.

"The economics of it neces-

sitates having to have volunteers," Coates said. "They get trained, they get their uniforms. They are part of something very exciting."

Coates defended the model and said "I don't think there's a case for paying volunteers."

IOC members like Coates receive per diems of between \$450 to \$900 when they are on Olympic business, and other generous perks like paid lodging at top hotels.

IOC President Thomas Bach gets no salary but receives an allowance of about \$250,000 per year as a "volunteer" president.

The Tokyo metropolitan government is also running a separate volunteer program to help steer tourists during the Olympics. It is reported to be seeking about 30,000 volunteers.

Yanks clinch home field for wild card

Associated Press

BOSTON — The AL wild-card game will be in the Bronx, where the New York Yankees bats have always felt at home.

The Yankees cleared the Fenway fences four times on Friday night to tie the major league single-season home run record, clinching home-field advantage for the upcoming one-game playoff against Oakland with an 11-6 victory over the Boston Red Sox.

The win in the opener of the three-game series settled the AL's last remaining postseason question with two games to go. The Yankees will host the Athletics on Wednesday for the right to play Boston in the divisional round.

"That's an exhale right there, for the moment," New York

manager Aaron Boone said. "Now we can start working on getting ready as best as we can for that Wednesday game. It's nice to finish that off."

The Red Sox, who clinched the best record in baseball with a franchise-record 107 wins, were hoping to make things difficult for their archrivals — and the A's, too — by forcing the winner of the wild-card game to fly cross-country next week. The ALDS begins in Boston on Friday.

Instead, the Yankees will sleep in their own beds, and play in the park where they were 53-28 while hitting 144 home runs.

"It's not the end-all, be-all by any means," Boone said. "But when push comes to shove you want to be at home."

Reigning Rookie of the Year Aaron Judge hit his first homer since coming off the disabled list Sept. 14, and Gary Sanchez, Aaron Hicks and Luke Voit also homered to give the Yankees 264 home runs for the season. That matches the mark set by the 1997 Seattle Mariners.

Long balls: Sanchez homered to lead off the third, just his second homer and fourth hit of any kind in two weeks. Hicks hit a three-run shot in New York's six-run fourth. Voit hit a solo shot in the seventh and Judge hit his 27th of the year in the eighth to make it 11-4.

Boone said he wouldn't have expected to set home run records in a season without Judge and Giancarlo Stanton hitting 50 apiece. Judge battled injuries after hitting 52 as a rookie; Stanton dropped from 59 to 37.

Twelve players hit 10 or more homers and six topped 20.

"We're getting a lot of production from a lot of guys," Boone said.

Late threat: Boston scored once and loaded the bases in the bottom of the eighth against Dellin Betances, but Eduardo Nunez lined out to second to end it. The Red Sox loaded the bases in the ninth before Zach Britton walked Xander Bogaerts to score a run and cut the deficit to 11-6.

But Pearce grounded out on a 3-2 pitch to third base to end it, giving the Yankees their 99th win.

"I loved the way we fought," Red Sox manager Alex Cora said. "Got to Betances; got to Britton. We had the big inning against Happ."

MLB roundup

Cubs down Cardinals, close in on NL Central crown

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Kyle Hendricks went eight innings in another strong start, Kris Bryant homered and Chicago moved closer to the NL Central title and dealt another hit to St. Louis' playoff hopes with an 8-4 win on Friday.

The Cubs came into the final weekend of the regular season with a franchise-record fourth straight trip to the postseason assured and their third division title in a row in sight. They remained one game ahead of Milwaukee.

The Cubs can clinch the NL Central — and home-field advantage throughout the NL playoffs — with a win and a Brewers loss.

St. Louis dropped its fourth in a row. The Cardinals trail Los Angeles by two games for the second NL wild card. One more St. Louis loss or Los Angeles win would eliminate the Cardinals from postseason contention.

Rockies 5, Nationals 2: NL West-leading Colorado locked

up a playoff berth for the second straight season, beating visiting Washington for its eighth win in a row behind a resilient start from Kyle Freeland.

David Dahl homered for the fifth consecutive game and Ian Desmond hit a two-run homer against his former team to help Colorado clinch at least a wild card with two games remaining.

The Rockies remained one game ahead of Los Angeles as they try to wrap up the franchise's first division crown.

Dodgers 3, Giants 1: Justin Turner hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the fifth inning and visiting Los Angeles moved to the brink of securing baseball's final playoff berth.

Brewers 6, Tigers 5: Ryan Braun hit two homers, the second a solo shot in the eighth inning that bounced off right fielder Nicholas Castellanos' glove and over the fence, and host Milwaukee beat Detroit to keep pace with the NL Central-leading Cubs.

Twins 2-12 White Sox 1-4: Jose Berrios became the first

Minnesota pitcher in eight years to reach 200 strikeouts, throwing seven smooth innings against visiting Chicago in the first game of a doubleheader sweep.

Mitch Garver had a career-high six RBIs in the second game.

Indians 14, Royals 6: Josh Donaldson hit a grand slam and double to help power Cleveland past host Kansas City.

Astros 2, Orioles 1: Gerrit Cole tuned up for the postseason with six sharp innings, and he got a home run from Josh Reddick in visiting Houston's win over Baltimore.

Braves 10, Phillies 2: Freddie Freeman hit three doubles in a four-hit performance and drove in three runs as Atlanta routed host Philadelphia.

Marlins 8, Mets 1: David Wright finally made it back into a major league game, grounding out in his first plate appearance for New York in nearly 2½ years in a loss to visiting Miami.

Sidelined by injuries since May 27, 2016, the 35-year-old

Wright is scheduled to start at third base Saturday night against the last-place Marlins. Unable to overcome all the injuries, he said he expects this weekend to mark his final appearance in the big leagues.

Pirates 8, Reds 4: Elias Diaz hit a tiebreaking homer as Pittsburgh pulled away in its seventh straight win over host Cincinnati.

Blue Jays 7, Rays 6: Randal Grichuk hit a pinch-hit, three-run triple and visiting Toronto rallied to beat Tampa Bay.

Angels 8, Athletics 5: Mike Trout hit a two-run homer, Shohei Ohtani went 3-for-3 and host Los Angeles claimed the series opener.

Mariners 12, Rangers 6: Robinson Cano had four hits and Cameron Maybin had four RBIs as host Seattle built a nine-run lead after three innings on the way to a victory over Texas.

Padres 3, Diamondbacks 2 (15): Freddy Galvis doubled home the winning run in the 15th inning to give San Diego a victory over visiting Arizona.