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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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WWII 80th anniversary ceremony held

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN

Stars and Stripes

WARSAW, Poland — Vice President Mike Pence praised the Polish people for their “indomitable spirit” at a ceremony Sunday to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II.

Pence was among dozens of foreign leaders gathered in the city’s historic Pilsudski Square.

The vice president spoke after Poland President Andrzej Duda and German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, acknowledging he was in Warsaw on behalf of President Donald Trump. Trump canceled his two-day visit to Poland last week to monitor Hurricane Dorian, a maximum Category 5 storm that struck the Bahamas on Sunday.

“While the hearts of every American are with our fellow citizens in the path of a massive storm, today we remember how the gathering storm of the 20th

century broke into warfare and invasion followed by unspeakable hardship and heroism of the Polish people,” Pence said.

Nazi Germany invaded Poland on Sept. 1, 1939, triggering a war that lasted nearly six years and killed more than 70 million people, including more than 6 million Polish citizens.

“Today we remember those who were lost ... and all of those who sacrificed ... to win a victory for freedom,” Pence said.

German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier called the war a “painful legacy,” while Duda said, “We must never forget it, even when all the eyewitnesses are gone.”

Various heads of states from much of Europe were welcomed with pomp and circumstance at the city’s largest square, used for military parades and national celebrations; the area was razed during World War II much like most of Warsaw. Russian President Vladimir Putin was not invited — unlike 10 years ago — because of Rus-

sia’s annexation of Crimea in 2014. Polish leaders had compared Russia’s actions to “the aggressors of 1939.”

Pence spoke of the close bond between the United States and Poland.

Referring to remarks Trump made two years ago when he visited Warsaw, Pence said, “America loves Poland and America loves the Polish people,” eliciting claps from a U.S.-friendly crowd that later chanted, “U.S.A., U.S.A.”

The somber remembrance at times felt more like a political rally.

A 2020 Trump campaign banner hung on a security barrier at the far perimeter of the square, behind which more than a dozen attendees wearing red “Poland Stands with USA” T-shirts gathered well before the ceremony began.

They had come to see Trump, a representative said, but were also pleased Pence attended.

“We like Trump, we support him, but Poles don’t know Mike

Pence,” whom, as a conservative Christian, stands for values important to Poland, said Mateusz Wojnar, 40, a banker from Warsaw.

“People in Poland don’t really know Mike Pence,” said Pawel Stacherski, 39, a carpenter from Lodz. “We’re hoping his visit will change that.”

Before Trump canceled his visit, it was expected he and Duda, the Polish president, would disclose more details of an agreement reached between Washington and Warsaw in June to send an additional 1,000 U.S. troops to Poland. More than 4,500 U.S. servicemembers are already deployed on a rotational basis to about half a dozen bases in Poland.

On Friday, Poland Defense Minister Mariusz Blaszczak, speaking at a joint news conference with U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton, said the two countries had agreed on at least six locations for new U.S. troops to be stationed, according to Poland’s TVN24 News.

Oil tanker pursued by US is now off Syrian coast

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — An Iranian oil tanker pursued by the U.S. across the Mediterranean Sea slowed to a near-stop Sunday off the coast of Syria, where America’s top diplomat alleges it will be unloaded despite denials from Tehran.

The ongoing saga of the Adrian Darya 1, formerly known as the Grace 1, comes as tensions remain high between the U.S. and Iran over its unraveling nuclear deal with world powers. Tehran is set to send a deputy foreign minister and a team of

economists to Paris on Monday for talks over ways to salvage the accord after a call between Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and French President Emmanuel Macron.

The ship-tracking website MarineTraffic.com showed the Adrian Darya slowed to a near-stop on Sunday some 50 nautical miles off Syria. The ship’s Automatic Identification System does not show its destination after its mariners onboard previously listed it as ports in Greece and Turkey.

Turkey’s foreign minister at one point suggested it would go to Lebanon, something denied

by a Lebanese official.

The U.S. has been warning countries not to accept the Adrian Darya, which carries 2.1 million barrels of crude oil worth some \$130 million.

The U.S. has sanctioned the Adrian Darya’s captain and has sought to impound the vessel.

Authorities in Gibraltar alleged the ship was bound for a refinery in Baniyas, Syria, when they seized it in early July. They ultimately let it go.

On Friday, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo alleged on Twitter that the ship was still bound for Syria.

“We have reliable informa-

tion that the tanker is underway and headed to Tartus, Syria,” Pompeo wrote on Twitter. “I hope it changes course.”

Iranian officials have said the oil onboard the Adrian Darya had been sold to an unnamed buyer. However, anyone buying Iranian crude oil would be subject to U.S. sanctions.

Syrian President Bashar Assad’s adviser, Bouthaina Shaaban, separately told the Lebanon-based Al-Mayadeen TV that Damascus is trying to get oil that its people need “but authorities don’t know where the Iranian tanker is heading.”

Maritime exercise set to kick off in South China Sea

BY WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

Inaugural joint maritime drills between the United States and a group of Southeast Asian nations are scheduled to kick off Tuesday in the contested waters of the South China Sea.

The five-day exercise is intended to “build capacity in maritime domain awareness, information sharing and sea interdiction,” according to a statement issued by the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok.

The exercise comes about a year after members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN, held their first official maritime exercise with China. ASEAN’s 10 member nations are Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

The weeklong China-ASEAN exercise featured helicopter cross-deck landings and a search-and-rescue operation, although only Singapore, Brunei, Philippines, Thailand and

Vietnam sent ships. Four other nations sent observers.

ASEAN’s back-to-back exercises with China and the U.S. are part of a balancing act for the group. Its members are often at loggerheads over how best to respond to China’s growing economic clout and naval might.

Some ASEAN members, such as the Philippines, Vietnam and Indonesia, are locked in disputes with China over territorial claims in the South China Sea.

On the other hand, Cambodia is moving ahead with construction of a deep-water naval base for China’s navy, Voice of America reported last week.

The ASEAN-U.S. Maritime Exercise will be co-hosted by Thailand and the U.S., the U.S. embassy said.

A spokesman for the U.S. Navy’s 7th Fleet in Japan told Stars and Stripes on Thursday that information about the exercise was not yet being released.

Japan safety board agrees with Navy’s findings on Fitzgerald collision cause

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The Japanese government has issued its report on the fatal USS Fitzgerald collision, more than two years after the destroyer ran into a commercial container ship.

Released Thursday, the Japan Transport Safety Board’s findings echo a U.S. Navy report from late 2017 saying the accident was “preventable” and that the destroyer’s watch standers contributed to the incident.

Seven Fitzgerald sailors were killed June 17, 2017, when the destroyer ran into the Philippine-flagged ACX Crystal about 60 nautical miles southwest of Yokosuka, where the warship is based.

“It is somewhat likely that USS FITZGERALD ... was not properly on the lookout for ACX CRYSTAL,” Japan’s report said.

Watch standers paid more attention to another container ship sailing “parallel in the north of ACX Crystal,” distracting them from focusing on the Philippine ship, the report said.

ACX Crystal signaled the Fitzgerald with a daylight signaling lamp prior to the collision, Japan’s report said. The Navy report said the Fitzgerald’s

officer of the deck “fail[ed] to sound the danger signal and fail[ed] to attempt to contact Crystal on bridge-to-bridge radio.”

ACX Crystal’s crew “expected that the USS Fitzgerald would recognize them and avoid ACX Crystal,” so it did not change its course or speed, Japan’s report said. The report was ordered after the collision in accordance with Japanese law to determine its cause, “thereby preventing future accidents and reducing damage,” board Chairman Nobuo Takeda wrote in the report translated from Japanese.

It listed four suggested safety actions crews should take to “prevent recurrence of the same type of accidents.” These included properly adjusting all radars “to sufficiently judge surrounding situations” and not operating on assumptions of neighboring ships’ intentions.”

After the collision — and another in August 2017 involving the Yokosuka-based USS John S. McCain that killed 10 U.S. sailors — the Navy has taken steps to prevent future incidents by implementing about 100 changes. These include tightening surface warfare officer qualifications to improve watch standing.

At ‘threshold’ of peace deal, Taliban stage 2nd attack

BY PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Taliban attacked a second provincial capital in as many days on Sunday, even as the insurgents were “at the threshold” of a deal with the United States that could end America’s longest war.

Insurgents attacked Pul-e-Khumri, the capital of northern Baghlan province, from several entry points around 5 a.m. with gunbattles continuing until the afternoon, provincial police chief spokesman Javed Basharat said.

Reinforcements arrived from Kabul and

had contained the fighting to the outskirts of the city, according to Basharat, who said at least two members of the security forces and three Taliban fighters were killed.

The Associated Press reported at least four civilians were killed in the fighting and another 20 wounded.

The assault came a day after Taliban fighters conducted a major attack on Kunduz, a strategically located northern city and capital of Kunduz province.

At least 19 civilians and Afghan forces were killed in the clashes, in addition to three dozen Taliban fighters, according to the Defense Ministry, which said the city

was calm Sunday.

The top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, Gen. Scott Miller, arrived in Kunduz on Saturday to assist Afghan forces in defending the city, which briefly fell to the Taliban in 2015, U.S. officials said.

The fighting came as the latest round of direct talks between Taliban and U.S. negotiators wrapped up in Qatar. Nine rounds of intermittent talks over the past year have focused on a deal that would allow U.S. troops to withdraw from Afghanistan in exchange for promises by the Taliban to prevent Afghanistan from becoming a terrorist safe haven.

Survey asks Marines for thoughts on PT program

By CARLOS M. VAZQUEZ II
Stars and Stripes

The Marine Corps Force Fitness Division has asked Marines and the civilians who work with them for ideas on how to improve the Corps' physical fitness programs.

The Marine Corps' Fitness Operational Advisory Group released a survey in August looking for input on improving the Physical Fitness Test, Marine Corps Martial Arts Program, the Force Fitness Instructor Program, Civilian Certified Athletic Trainers in the Operating Forces, Marine Corps Water Survival Training Program and military occupational specialty specific physical standards.

The survey, which ended Saturday at www.fitness.marines.mil, had approximately 28 questions, depending on which program the respondent chose to address. Questions were tailored according to demographics, and documentation could be uploaded to support the survey-taker's ideas.

"We believe the unfiltered input directly from individual Marines is of the utmost value," Col. Stephen Armes, director of Marine Corps Force Fitness Division and Training and Education Command, told Stars and Stripes via email Thursday. "We have already received hundreds of responses addressing multiple facets of the [physical fitness program]."

The group's primary role is to approve recommended solutions to increase the overall fitness and readiness of Marines, Armes said.

Through the survey, Marines had an opportunity to give ideas about all areas of the physical fitness programs within the service and voice their opinions on topics such as enhancing education on performance nutrition, the use of new technology in workouts and how to better recover afterward.

Category 5 winds hit Bahamas

Associated Press

McLEAN'S TOWN CAY, Bahamas — Hurricane Dorian struck the northern Bahamas on Sunday as a catastrophic Category 5 storm, its 185 mph winds ripping off roofs and tearing down power lines as hundreds hunkered in schools, churches and other shelters.

The second-strongest Atlantic hurricane since 1950, Dorian hit land in Elbow Cay in the Abaco Islands after authorities made last-minute pleas for those in low-lying areas to evacuate. But officials recognized there were not many structures on higher ground on the largely flat archipelago southeast of Florida.

Millions from Florida to the Carolinas kept a wary eye on the slow-moving Dorian amid indications it would veer sharply northeastward after passing the Bahamas and track up the U.S. Southeast seaboard. But

authorities warned that even if its core did not make U.S. landfall and stayed offshore, the potent storm would likely hammer U.S. coastal areas with powerful winds and heavy surf.

The National Hurricane Center in Miami said Dorian's maximum sustained winds at its 12:45 p.m. landfall were 185 mph, up from 175 mph. It was moving west at 7 mph. "Catastrophic conditions" are occurring in The Abaco Islands and expected across Grand Bahama later in the day, the center said.

Dorian's power was second only to Hurricane Allen in 1980, with its 190 mph winds.

"It's going to be really, really bad for the Bahamas," Colorado State University hurricane researcher Phil Klotzbach said.

In the northern stretches of the Bahamas archipelago, hotels closed, residents boarded up homes and officials hired boats to move people to bigger

islands as Dorian approached.

Bahamas Prime Minister Hubert Minnis warned that any "who do not evacuate are placing themselves in extreme danger and can expect a catastrophic consequence."

Still, dozens of people ignored evacuation orders, officials said, and they were warned that they were placing their lives in danger.

"The end could be fatal," said Samuel Butler, assistant police commissioner. "We ask you, we beg you, we plead with you to get to a place of safety."

Bahamas radio station ZNS Bahamas reported that a mother and her child in central Grand Bahama called to say they were sheltering in a closet and seeking help from police.

Silbert Mills, owner of the Bahamas Christian Network, said trees and power lines were torn down in The Abaco Islands and some roads were impassable.

West Texas rampage death toll rises to 7

Associated Press

MIDLAND, Texas — The death toll in a West Texas shooting rampage increased to seven Sunday as authorities investigated why a man stopped by state troopers for failing to signal a left turn opened fire on them and fled, shooting more than 20 people as he drove before being killed by officers outside a movie theater.

Odessa police spokesman Steve LeSueur said that at least one person who was shot remained in life-threatening condition.

Those killed ranged in age from 15 to 57, Odessa Police Chief Michael Gerke said at a news conference. He said authorities have no definitive answers yet about a motive in Saturday's shooting.

He also refused to say the name of the gunman publicly but said he would provide his identity later. Authorities have

said only that the shooter was a white male in his 30s.

The shooting began Saturday afternoon with an interstate traffic stop in which gunfire was exchanged with police, setting off a chaotic rampage during which the suspect hijacked a mail carrier truck and fired at random as he drove in the area of Odessa and Midland, two cities in the heart of Texas oil country more than 300 miles west of Dallas.

Police initially reported possible multiple shooters, but Odessa police Chief Michael Gerke later said there was only one male suspect.

The terrifying chain of events began when Texas state troopers tried pulling over a gold car mid-Saturday afternoon on Interstate 20 for failing to signal a left turn, Texas Department of Public Safety spokeswoman Katherine Cesinger said. Before the vehicle came to a complete stop, the driver "pointed a

rifle toward the rear window of his car and fired several shots" toward the patrol car stopping him. The gunshots struck one of two troopers inside the patrol car, Cesinger said, after which the gunman fled and continued shooting.

Two other police officers were shot before the suspect was killed. Authorities say the trooper was in serious but stable condition on Saturday, and the other officers were stable.

Gerke said there were at least 21 civilian shooting victims. At least two patients remained in critical condition at Odessa Regional Medical Center, while others were hospitalized elsewhere.

Gerke did not go into detail about the chase, but the movie theater where the suspect was killed is more than 10 miles from where state troopers originally pulled over the gunman.

New tariffs take effect; likely to raise US consumer prices

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United States and China went ahead with their latest tariff increases on each other's goods Sunday, potentially raising prices Americans pay for some clothes, shoes, sporting goods and other consumer items in advance of the holiday shopping season.

The 15% U.S. taxes apply to about \$112 billion of Chinese imports. All told, more than two-thirds of the consumer goods the United States imports from China now face higher taxes.

The administration had largely avoided hitting consumer items in its earlier rounds of tariff increases.

With prices of many retail goods now likely to rise, the Trump administration's move threatens the U.S. economy's

main driver: consumer spending. As businesses pull back on investment spending and exports slow in the face of weak global growth, American shoppers have been a key bright spot for the economy.

As a result of Trump's higher tariffs, many U.S. companies have warned that they will be forced to pass on to their customers the higher prices they will pay on Chinese imports. Some businesses, though, may decide in the end to absorb the higher costs rather than raise prices for their customers.

In China, authorities began charging higher duties on American imports at midday Sunday, according to employees who answered the phone at customs offices in Beijing and the southern port of Guangzhou. They declined to give their names.

Tariffs of 10% and 5% apply

to items ranging from frozen sweet corn and pork liver to marble and bicycle tires, the government announced earlier.

After Sunday's tariff increase, 87% of textiles and clothing the United States buys from China and 52% of shoes will be subject to import taxes.

On Dec. 15, the Trump administration is scheduled to impose a second round of 15% tariffs — this time on roughly \$160 billion of imports. If those duties take effect, virtually all goods imported from China will be covered.

The Chinese government has released a list of American imports targeted for penalties on Dec. 15 if the U.S. tariff increases take effect. In total, Beijing says Sunday's penalties and the planned December increases will apply to \$75 billion of American goods.

Erdogan sets deadline for decision on safe zone

Associated Press

ISTANBUL — Turkey's president threatened Saturday to launch a unilateral offensive into northeastern Syria if plans to establish a so-called safe zone along Turkey's border fail to meet his expectations, including a demand that Turkish soldiers control the corridor.

Speaking to graduates of a military academy in Istanbul, Recep Tayyip Erdogan said the U.S. had up to three weeks to satisfy Turkish demands.

Earlier in August, Turkish and U.S. officials agreed to set up the zone east of the Euphrates River. Ankara wants U.S.-backed Syrian Kurdish fighters, considered terrorists by Turkey, to pull back from the border.

"If our soldiers do not start to control the area actively, we will have no choice but to activate our own operational plans," Erdogan said.

Turkey has been pressing to control — in coordination with the U.S. — a 19- to 25-mile-deep zone within civil war-ravaged Syria, running east of the Euphrates all the way to the border with Iraq.

On Friday, Erdogan said Turkish officials had "temporarily" agreed to a safe zone proposed by the U.S. that is narrower than 20 miles.

The two countries set up a joint operations center in Turkey's border province of Sanliurfa last month and started helicopter patrols. But Turkish officials have repeatedly vowed to go it alone if the U.S. delays safe zone plans.

Turkey sees the Syrian Kurdish fighters, who make up the majority of the Syrian Democratic Forces, as an extension of a Kurdish insurgency within Turkey.

Erdogan said his visit to New York this month for the U.N. General Assembly, where he's expected to meet President Donald Trump, would be a "last chance" before a Turkish offensive.

Iranian rocket blast draws tweet, taunt

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — The unexplained explosion of a rocket at an Iranian space center grew more mysterious Saturday as President Donald Trump tweeted what appeared to be an American surveillance photo of the site and Tehran showed off a satellite meant to be launched.

Trump's tweet showing the aftermath of Thursday's explosion at the Imam Khomeini Space Center drew a taunting tweet from Iran's Information and Communications Technology Minister Mohammad Javad Azari Jahromi. However, Jahromi declined to say what went wrong while showing local journalists the Nahid-1 satellite meant to be launched.

"I have no idea about the Americans' comment about Semnan space site and I think it is more appropriate that the respected minister of defense talk about this because it is within his realm of responsibility," the minister said.

"But what could be seen today is that the Nahid satellite is here and has not yet been handed over."

Thursday's explosion marked the third failure involving a launch at the center, which has raised suspicions of sabotage in Iran's space program.

The U.S. has criticized the initiative as a way for Tehran to advance its ballistic missiles.

Trump directly acknowledged that in his tweet Friday.

"The United States of America was not involved in the catastrophic accident during final launch preparations for the Safir SLV Launch at Semnan Launch Site One in Iran," Trump wrote, identifying the rocket used. "I wish Iran best wishes and good luck in determining what happened at Site One."

Commercially available satellite images by Planet Labs Inc. and Maxar Technologies showed a black plume of smoke rising above a launch pad Thursday, with what appeared to be the charred remains of a rocket and its launch stand. In previous days, satellite images had shown officials there repainted the launch pad blue.

Jahromi, a rising politician in Iran's Shiite theocracy, responded to Trump in a tweet early Saturday with a selfie next to Iran's Nahid-1 at a lab in Tehran. The Nahid-1 is believed to be the satellite Iran was prepping to launch at the space center, which is some 150 miles southeast of Iran's capital, Tehran.

"Me & Nahid I right now, Good Morning Donald Trump!" he wrote in English.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man to walk from NY stadium to Fenway

RI WARWICK — A Connecticut man is walking from Yankee Stadium to Fenway Park in an effort to promote peace, and not just between the two fan bases.

Al Forte, 76, of Stamford, Conn., told the Providence Journal he's asking people along the way to pray for peace on earth, handing out cards showing six soldiers praying.

Forte began his trek after a Red Sox-Yankees game on Aug. 4 and said he plans to arrive in Boston in time for a game between the two clubs Sept. 6.

He has a friend who picks him up each night and takes him to a hotel, then drives him back to where he left off in the morning to continue his journey.

Helpers to rebuild Santa's Workshop

MI ISHPEMING — Santa's Workshop in the Upper Peninsula will be rebuilt after a devastating fire, thanks to the generosity of the public, especially a former Ishpeming resident with warm childhood memories.

The Mining Journal reported that Tim Easterwood, of suburban Detroit, is giving \$15,000 to rebuild the small structure.

Authorities said a fire last month probably was intentionally set.

High school and college students will rebuild the workshop and trailer.

Judge sides with protesting students

ID BOISE — A federal judge has sided with a group of Idaho students who were removed from their high

school cheerleading team after staging a protest of their coach.

The Idaho Statesman reported that Judge David Nye ruled that the nine Burley High School cheerleaders had proved they were dismissed for reserving their right to engage in the Cassia County School District's grievance process.

The cheerleaders involved in the sit-in protest of their coach were suspended from the team.

Man denied entry to bar over chains sues

OR PORTLAND — A black man has filed a \$500,000 lawsuit against a Portland bar owner, claiming he was prevented from going inside in 2018 because he was wearing "too many" chain necklaces.

Ray Lamont Peterson claimed that was a pretext for keeping the Splash Bar predominantly white.

Peterson's lawsuit filed Aug. 12 claims that Chris Lenahan used a radio to tell security staff to start "arbitrarily enforcing a dress code against African Americans" when he thought the composition of customers was getting "too dark." The suit claims that Lenahan referred to black patrons using racist terms.

Lenahan told The Oregonian/OregonLive Tuesday that the lawsuit allegations are "ridiculous."

Oyster thefts hinder aquaculture program

MA SANDWICH — Officials in town said about 4,000 immature oysters were stolen from a local creek, hindering a fledgling Cape Cod aquaculture program.

The Cape Cod Times reported that Sandwich town officials realized the oysters were missing from Mill Creek when they went to check the floating cages near Sandwich Boardwalk last month.

Sandwich Natural Resources Director David DeConto said the oysters weren't mature enough to meet the size requirements for sale, so it's unclear why they were taken.

State awards first marijuana licenses

IL SPRINGFIELD — Illinois has awarded its first licenses to businesses that will be allowed to sell recreational marijuana when it becomes legal in the state next year.

The Chicago Sun-Times reported regulators announced the five medical marijuana dispensaries where residents will be able to buy small amounts of the drug starting Jan. 1.

Three locations are in Chicago's suburbs, and the others are in central and southern Illinois.

School adds e-cig to 'no smoking' signs

NC GREENVILLE — North Carolina public schools have added a picture of an electronic cigarette to their "no smoking" signs.

News outlets reported all public schools in the state are required to have a sign posted stating they're a tobacco-free zone, but this year a symbol has been added to also ban e-cigarette use, also called vaping.

Pitt County Health Department Coordinator Tiffany Thigpen told WNCT the state received money to add the symbol to the signs ahead of the new school year.

University exposed to whooping cough

GA GAINESVILLE — Students and employees at a Georgia university may have been exposed to pertussis, also known as whooping cough.

News outlets reported a news release from Brenau University said potential cases began the week of Aug. 16.

Georgia Department of Public Health District 2 spokesman Dave Palmer said the cases are probable but have not yet been confirmed.

Brenau University Director of Communications Kristen Bowman said students are required to get vaccinated, but employees don't have the same requirements. She said students and employees can get a booster shot at the school's Center for Health & Well-Being.

The college's vice president of student services, Amanda Lammers, said most students have been vaccinated and the risk of contracting the illness is low.

Woman celebrates 111th birthday

NH SUNAPEE — A woman celebrated her 111th birthday in New Hampshire with a bunch of cupcakes and a tribute from singers.

Hazel Nilson was born Aug. 21, 1908, in Chicago. A lifelong Chicago Cubs fan, she likes to say she was born the last time the team won the World Series before their big comeback in 2016.

Nilson, a former physical education teacher, has been a resident of Sunapee Cove in Sunapee since October 2014.

From wire reports

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Big year for 2018's QB class

Associated Press

Given the many variables that go into developing an elite quarterback, Jim Kelly can't even imagine assessing what to make of last year's group of five first-round draft picks as they enter their sophomore seasons.

That doesn't mean the Pro Football Hall of Famer won't get questions regarding Cleveland's Baker Mayfield and Co.

"Good class, but yeah, it's definitely too early," Kelly said.

"Every time there's a good class that comes out and they start off good, everybody starts comparing them to the class of '83. But until they've done it ..." he added, pausing, before praising the accomplishments of the 2004 rookie QBs: Eli Manning, Philip Rivers and Ben Roethlisberger.

If that's the case, Mayfield, the No. 1 pick, the New York Jets' Sam Darnold, Buffalo's Josh Allen, Miami-via-Arizona's Josh Rosen and Baltimore's Lamar Jackson have a long way to go before drawing comparisons to Kelly's draft class, which included fellow Hall of Famers John Elway and Dan Marino.

Former quarterback Boomer Esiason said the expectation is for quarterbacks to improve dramatically entering Year 2.

"Poise and accuracy. You should understand pocket presence more," he said. "The ability (to do these) leads to being a true leader."

Here's a scouting report of the five first-round picks entering their sophomore seasons, listed by draft order:

Mayfield (No. 1)

2018 stats. 6-7 record, 310 of 486 for 3,725 yards, 27 touchdowns, 14 interceptions.

Analysis. A lack of confidence isn't an issue for the brash-talking player, who has quickly won over Browns fans by his production — he's credited with four game-winning drives already — and ability to chug a beer at a recent Indians game. With no love lost for former coach Hue Jackson, Mayfield welcomes

Freddie Kitchens and the addition of receiver Odell Beckham Jr. to an offense that already features Jarvis Landry.

What others are saying. "There's a lot of hype around him right now, and he's got some swagger. I just want to see how much better he can be, and how much better that team can be," said Gannon.

Darnold (No. 3)

2018 stats. 4-9, 239 of 414 for 2,865 yards, 17 touchdowns, 15 interceptions.

Analysis. Darnold showed progress as one of the NFL's most productive and efficient quarterbacks over the final month after missing three games with a foot injury. Upgrades at running back, with the additions of Le'Veon Bell and Ty Montgomery, should keep opposing defenses in check and open up passing lanes.

What others are saying. "The few times that I've been in his presence and talking with him, he gives you a good vibe, a good feeling," Jets Hall of Fame quarterback Joe Namath said. "He's respectfully humble. Physically, he can play as well as anybody. He just needs to keep polishing himself, and the team needs to polish up."

Allen (No. 7)

2018 stats. 5-6, 169 of 320 for 2,074 yards, 10 touchdowns, 12 interceptions.

Analysis. Allen played to limited expectations in being raw, strong-armed and having accuracy issues, with his 52.8 completion percentage ranking 32nd in the NFL while overseeing a patchwork offense. He needs to show improvement and more patience in the pocket, given the attention the Bills placed in overhauling the offense by adding receivers Cole Beasley and John Brown, tight end Tyler Kroft, and retooling underperforming offensive line.

What others are saying. "We want him to be aggressive, but we also want him, when the defense tells you, to chuck it down

and get it to second-and-4," GM Brandon Beane. "This is his team. That's the biggest thing that I see from a year ago."

Rosen (No. 10)

2018 stats. 3-10, 217 of 393 for 2,278 yards, 11 TDs, 14 interceptions.

Analysis. Red flags regarding his work habits and leadership skills raised before the draft didn't lower following his first NFL season, after which he was sent packing to the Dolphins when Arizona selected Kyler Murray to begin the draft. Rosen opened camp behind veteran journeyman Ryan Fitzpatrick, with no clear indication of when he'll get an opportunity to start.

What others are saying. "He's probably the one that would concern me the most," Gannon said. "Just because you're a first-round pick, just because you have some arm talent, that doesn't mean (anything)."

Jackson (No. 32)

2018 stats. 6-2, 113 of 199 for 1,395 yards, eight TDs, four interceptions (including playoffs).

Analysis. Jackson took over for an injured Joe Flacco just in time to spark the Ravens' late-season surge to the playoffs. Concern is, he did more with his running ability in leading NFL quarterbacks with 695 yards rushing than with his arm, topping 200 yards passing just once. He then produced a dud during the first three quarters of Baltimore's 23-17 loss to the Chargers in an AFC wild-card playoff before a late rally fell short.

What others are saying. "You can't live your life in fear," coach John Harbaugh said on whether Jackson is more at risk to being hurt by running too often. "I think there's just as much fear on the other side that he's going to take the thing to the house if he gets out and runs, too. So we'll live in that world as opposed to the other world."

Chiefs sign RB McCoy

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — LeSean McCoy is going from a rebuilding franchise in Buffalo to a Super Bowl contender in Kansas City, and he's reuniting with his close friend and former coach, Andy Reid, too.

The Chiefs and the two-time All-Pro running back have agreed to a \$4 million, 1-year deal, a person with knowledge of the negotiations told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because McCoy must still pass a physical, which could be completed as early as Sunday.

That would allow him the week to prepare for the Chiefs' opener in Jacksonville on Sunday.

McCoy would become the top backup to Damien Williams, likely siphoning carries from rookie Darwin Thompson and backup Darrell Williams. The Chiefs traded the other veteran running back that was expected to earn carries, Carlos Hyde, after he failed to impress during the preseason.

McCoy, 31, spent his first six seasons in Philadelphia, four of them under Reid, before spending the past four seasons with the Bills. The six-time Pro Bowl selection was released Saturday when general manager Brandon Beane cited the emergence of rookie Devin Singletary likely leading to a diminished role for a running back who for years has been a "bell-cow back."

"Difficult as it was, we always have to make what we think is the best decision for our team, and we just felt it was the right time to make this move," Beane said. "We did this being a running back-by-committee with whatever group we kept, and that would be a different role for LeSean."

Over the course of 10 seasons, McCoy has run for more than 10,600 yards, placing him 25th on the career list and fourth among active players. Some of his best seasons came under Reid, including the 2011 season in which he ran for 1,309 yards and 17 touchdowns while earning his first All-Pro nod.

College football roundup

No. 16 Auburn tops No. 11 Oregon

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Auburn true freshman quarterback Bo Nix threw a 26-yard touchdown pass to Seth Williams with 9 seconds remaining to cap the No. 16 Tigers' comeback 27-21 comeback defeat of No. 11 Oregon.

Nix barely converted a fourth-and-3 at midfield on the final drive when he tucked and ran. Only the nose of the ball was past the chain when officials measured. Then on third-and-10 from the Oregon 39 with no timeouts, Nix hit Williams for 13 yards, and then found him again on the next play to put Auburn ahead for the first time.

The Tigers, who trailed 21-6 late in the third quarter, delivered another opening-weekend blow to the Pac-12. They beat the Pac-12's highest-ranked team in a season opener for the second year in a row — No. 6 Washington lost to them 21-16 in Atlanta last year.

Nix finished 13-for-31 passing for 177 yards and two touchdowns, and also ran seven times for 42 yards. JaTarvious Whitlow ran 24 times for 110 yards for the Tigers.

Justin Herbert, who bypassed early entry in the NFL draft to return to Oregon, was 28-of-37 passing for 242 yards with a touchdown.

No. 2 Alabama 42, Duke 3: Tua Tagovailoa threw for 336 yards and four touchdowns as the No. 2 Crimson Tide overcame a sluggish start to blow out the Blue Devils in the Chick-fil-A Kickoff Game in Atlanta.

Returning to the stadium where it won the Southeastern Conference title last December and the national championship two seasons ago, Alabama (1-0) was held scoreless in the first quarter — which happened only one time in 2018.

But Duke (0-1) merely delayed the inevitable.

Tagovailoa put his tight ends to good use. The left-hander hooked up with Miller For-

ristall on a 27-yard touchdown pass and then went to Major Tennon for a 1-yard score

No. 3 Georgia 30, Vanderbilt 6: Jake Fromm threw for 156 yards and a touchdown, and the visiting Bulldogs won their 20th opener in 23 seasons and stayed perfect to kick off coach Kirby Smart's fourth season.

Georgia also easily won its 14th straight against the Southeastern Conference's Eastern Division in their first league game to open a season since 1995. It didn't feel like a road trip with fans taking advantage of a holiday weekend to paint the stadium Bulldogs red.

No. 5 Ohio State 45, FAU 21: Justin Fields, in his first game in a Buckeyes uniform, threw four touchdown passes and ran for a score to lead host Ohio State.

No. 6 LSU 55, Georgia Southern 3: Joe Burrow tied an school single-game record with five touchdown passes before halftime and the host Tigers cruised to a win.

No. 7 Michigan 40, Middle Tennessee 21: Shea Patterson threw three touchdown passes in the first half to lead the Wolverines to a win at home.

No. 10 Texas 45, Louisiana Tech 14: Sam Ehlinger threw four touchdown passes and the host Longhorns rolled past the Bulldogs to give coach Tom Herman his first season-opening victory in three years. Ehlinger was coolly efficient from the start with scoring passes on three of Texas' first four possessions.

No. 13 Washington 47, Eastern Washington 14: Jacob Eason threw for 349 yards and four touchdowns in his first game in nearly two years in his Huskies debut.

No. 15 Penn State 79, Idaho 7: Sean Clifford completed 14 of 23 passes for 280 yards and two touchdowns to lead the host Nittany Lions. Making his first career start, Clifford chipped in 57 rushing yards on seven carries and hooked up with receiver KJ Hamler for scoring

strikes of 36 and 21 yards.

No. 20 Iowa 38, Miami (Ohio) 14: Nate Stanley threw for 252 yards and three touchdowns, Mekhi Sargent ran for 91 yards and a score, and the host Hawkeyes won their season opener.

No. 21 Iowa State 29, Northern Iowa 26, 3 (OT): Sheldon Croney Jr. scored from a yard out in triple overtime and the host Cyclones rallied for the win. La'Michael Pettway had a pair of touchdown catches for Iowa State (1-0), which barely survived the season's first major upset after entering the year ranked for the first time since 1978.

No. 22 Syracuse 24, Liberty 0: Abdul Adams, Jarveon Howard and Moe Neal ran for touchdowns and the visiting Orange spoiled a most unusual debut for Hugh Freeze as Liberty's coach.

No. 23 Washington State 58, New Mexico State 7: Anthony Gordon completed his first 15 passes, threw for 330 yards and four touchdowns in the first half, and the host Cougars rolled.

No. 24 Nebraska 35, South Alabama 21: The host Cornhuskers scored two defensive touchdowns and one on special teams to bail out a sluggish offense.

No. 25 Stanford 17, Northwestern 7: K.J. Costello threw a 2-yard touchdown pass before getting knocked out of the season opener on a late hit and the host Cardinal held on to defeat the Wildcats.

Navy 45, Holy Cross 7: Nelson Smith ran for 96 yards with three touchdowns, Diego Fagot had nine tackles and the Midshipmen dominated at home in their regular-season opener Saturday.

Air Force 48, Colgate 7: Donald Hammond III scored three of the Falcons' seven rushing touchdowns and Air Force ran its record to 24-0 against teams from the Football Championship Subdivision by beating the Raiders.

Team USA tops Czechs in opener

Associated Press

SHANGHAI — The first big celebratory reaction from the U.S. bench in this World Cup came just a couple of minutes after tipoff, when Myles Turner blocked a shot at the rim. And with that, the tone was set.

There is an emphasis on defense with this U.S. team, and it was evident from the outset of its Group E opener on Sunday. Donovan Mitchell scored 16 points to lead a balanced scoring night, and the Americans steadily pulled away to beat the Czech Republic 88-67 to begin their quest for a third consecutive World Cup title.

"That's got to be our calling card," U.S. coach Gregg Popovich said. "We're going to try to execute better and better as time goes on, but defensively we've got to put our money there. It's what we have to be about to have an opportunity."

Harrison Barnes added 14 points, Kemba Walker scored 13 and Jayson Tatum finished with 10 for the Americans. Turner had seven rebounds and a pair of blocked shots.

"As long as we win, that's all that matters," Tatum said.

Tomas Satoransky, the former Washington forward who was traded to Chicago over the summer, led the Czechs with 17 points.

While the Americans' 78-game winning streak in international games with NBA players ended last month with a loss at Australia, their long winning streak in major tournaments continued. It's now at 54 games, starting with the bronze-medal game of the 2006 world championships and continuing with gold-medal runs at the 2007 FIBA Americas, 2008 Olympics, 2010 world championships, 2012 Olympics, 2014 World Cup and 2016 Olympics.

After a 9-0 run by the Czechs, order was quickly restored. The Americans scored the next 10 points, kick-starting what became a 29-9 run in all.

MLB Roundup

Strasburg fans 14, leads Nats past Marlins

Associated Press

WASHINGTON— Stephen Strasburg struck out 14 in eight crisp innings and Anthony Rendon homered twice Saturday, powering the Nationals to a 7-0 defeat of the Miami Marlins.

Strasburg (16-6) retired 22 straight after allowing two first-inning singles. The right-hander did not walk a batter while throwing 107 pitches, and he also contributed an RBI single at the plate.

“Fastball command was pretty good,” Strasburg said. “I was able to throw my curveball for a strike when I wanted to and changeup was pretty good as well.”

Juan Soto and Kurt Suzuki also homered for the NL wild card leaders, who have won three straight and eight of nine.

Rendon, who hit a game-ending single during Friday night’s 7-6 victory over Miami, opened the scoring with his 30th homer with two out in the first.

The Marlins extended the franchise record with their 14th consecutive road loss.

Tigers 10, Twins 7: Minnesota capped a night of sensational slugging by breaking the major league record for home runs in a season, but that wasn’t enough to overcome host Detroit’s seven-run third inning.

The Twins homered six times to bring their season total to 268, one more than the New York Yankees managed last year. Minnesota broke the mark when Mitch Garver led off the ninth with a drive to left for his second homer of the game.

Max Kepler, Jorge Polanco, C.J. Cron and Nelson Cruz also went deep for the Twins, who passed the 1997 Mariners (264 homers) during the game. Martin Perez (9-6) got the loss.

Cardinals 10-3, Reds 6-2: Matt Carpenter and Harrison Bader hit run-scoring singles during St. Louis’ two-run ninth inning, sending the Cardinals to a sweep of the day-night doubleheader.

Dakota Hudson (14-6) led the Cardinals to the win in the opener, striking out eight.

Angels 10, Red Sox 4: Al-

bert Pujols homered in a seven-run eighth inning, Mike Trout became the youngest player to reach at least 275 home runs and 200 stolen bases and host Los Angeles rallied for a victory over Boston.

Yankees 4, Athletics 3 (11): DJ LeMahieu homered on the first pitch in the bottom of the 11th inning, handing host New York its first victory in five tries against Oakland this season.

Mets 6, Phillies 3: Wilson Ramos matched his career high with four hits and extended his hitting streak to 24 games, helping New York win at Philadelphia.

Brewers 2, Cubs 0: Manny Pina drove in two runs with a first-inning single and Josh Hader finished a strong performance by Milwaukee’s bullpen to win at Chicago.

Rays 9, Indians 6: Tommy Pham, Avisail Garcia, Ji-Man Choi and Travis d’Arnaud homered, powering host Tampa Bay to the win.

Blue Jays 6, Astros 4: Cavan Biggio and Teoscar Hernandez each hit a two-run homer, leading host Toronto past Houston.

Royals 7, Orioles 5: Whit Merrifield hit a tiebreaking sacrifice fly in the eighth inning after host Kansas City loaded the bases on three bunts.

Diamondbacks 6, Dodgers 5: Eduardo Escobar homered for the third straight game and host Arizona beat Los Angeles in front of a crowd of 50,180, a single-game attendance record for Chase Field.

Braves 11, White Sox 5: Dallas Keuchel collected his first RBIs since his rookie season and held Chicago to two runs in six innings in the win for host Atlanta.

Rangers 3, Mariners 2: Isiah Kiner-Falefa hit a walk-off single in the ninth inning after host Texas rallied with the help of a video review and beat Seattle.

Pirates 11, Rockies 4: Josh Bell hit his 35th homer, Kevin Newman homered on the first pitch of the game and Pittsburgh won at Colorado.

Padres 4, Giants 1: Wil Myers homered, Manny Machado was 2-for-3 with a triple and Joey Lucchesi pitched six strong innings as San Diego won at San Francisco.

Defending champ Osaka dominates, consoles Gauff

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Naomi Osaka looked across the net after ending Coco Gauff’s U.S. Open in the third round Saturday night and saw the tears welling in the 15-year-old’s eyes.

Osaka also saw a bit of herself in the kid she’d just beaten 6-3, 6-0.

So the tournament’s defending champion and No. 1 seed, who is only 21, comforted Gauff with a hug and words of consolation, then encouraged her to address the 23,000 or so folks in the Arthur Ashe Stadium stands who were pulling for the young American. Knowing how tough it is to lose, Osaka told her: “You need to let those people know how you feel.”

So Gauff obliged — a rare instance of a match’s loser addressing the crowd from the court. And was appreciative of Osaka’s gesture.

“She just proved that she’s a true athlete. For me, the definition of an athlete is someone who on the court treats you like your worst enemy, but off the court can be your best friend,” Gauff said later at her news conference. “I think that’s what she did tonight.”

It’s that sort of maturity off the court, and a wise-beyond-her-years game on it, that has helped Gauff generate all sorts of attention already. She was the youngest woman since 1996 to win two matches at Flushing Meadows, her follow-up to a captivating run to the second week at Wimbledon in July.

In this much-hyped showdown under the lights, Gauff often looked exactly like what she is: an immensely talented player who is still learning her way at tennis’ top level.

Next for Osaka is a match Monday against 13th-seeded Belinda Bencic of Switzerland with a quarterfinal berth at

stake. Other matchups Monday: American qualifier Taylor Townsend vs. No. 15 Bianca Andreescu of Canada, American wildcard Kristie Ahn vs. No. 25 Elise Mertens, and No. 23 Donna Vekic of Croatia vs. No. 26 Julia Goerges.

Moving into the men’s fourth round were three-time champion Rafael Nadal and 2014 title winner Marin Cilic, who are the only past Grand Slam champs in their half of the draw and now must face each other. Cilic, the No. 22 seed, overcame his own 17 double-faults and withstood 40 aces from 14th-seeded American John Isner to win 7-5, 3-6, 7-6 (6), 6-4. With Isner and Tennes Sandgren losing Saturday, zero American men reached the fourth round.

Other winners included No. 6 Alexander Zverev, No. 13 Gael Monfils, No. 24 Matteo Berrettini and unseeded Andrey Rublev, who beat the ever-combustible Nick Kyrgios 7-6 (5), 7-6 (5), 6-3.