

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Trump signals restraint on Iran strike

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump signaled Friday that he's not inclined to authorize an immediate military strike on Iran in response to the attacks on the Saudi oil industry, saying he believes showing restraint "shows far more strength" and he wants to avoid an all-out war.

Speaking in the Oval Office ahead of an early afternoon meeting with his national security team, Trump laid out new sanctions on the Iranian central bank and said the easiest thing to do would be to launch military strikes.

"I think the strong person's approach and the thing that does show strength would be showing a little bit of re-

straint," Trump told reporters during a meeting with Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison. "Much easier to do it the other way, and Iran knows that if they misbehave they are on borrowed time."

Trump spoke just before he gathered his national security team at the White House to discuss how to respond to the weekend drone and missile attack on oil facilities in Saudi Arabia that the administration has blamed on Iran.

If he decides against a U.S. strike, it would mark the second time in recent months that he has pulled back from a major military action against Iran that many Pentagon and other advisers fear could trigger a new Middle East war. In June, after Iran shot down an

American surveillance drone, Trump initially endorsed a retaliatory military strike then abruptly called it off because he said it would have killed dozens of Iranians.

On Friday, he left the door open a bit for a later military response, saying people thought he'd attack Iran "within two seconds," but, he said, he has "plenty of time."

During the Friday meeting, U.S. national security leaders will present Trump with a broad range of military, economic and diplomatic options to consider as he decides how the U.S. should respond to what administration officials say was an unprecedented Iranian attack on Saudi oil facilities. The options will include an updated list of potential military strike

targets inside Iran. But Pentagon leaders will also warn that military action against the Islamic Republic could escalate into war, according to U.S. officials familiar with the discussions who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Any decision may depend on what kind of evidence the U.S. and Saudi investigators are able to provide proving that the cruise missile and drone strike was launched by Iran, as a number of officials, including Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, have asserted.

Iran has denied involvement and warned the U.S. that any attack will spark an "all-out war" with immediate retaliation from Tehran.

White House eyes more Pentagon funds for border wall

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Senior Trump administration officials are considering a plan to again divert billions of dollars in military funding to pay for border barrier construction next year, a way to circumvent congressional opposition to putting more taxpayer money toward the president's signature project, according to three administration officials.

The president has pledged to complete nearly 500 miles of new barrier by the 2020 election — stirring chants of "Build the Wall!" at his campaign rallies. But that construction goal will require a total of \$18.4 billion in funding through 2020, far more than the administration has publicly disclosed, the administration's latest internal projections show.

Planning documents obtained by The Washington Post

show the cost of building 509 miles of barriers averages out to more than \$36 million per mile. The documents also show that the government would need to obtain — either by eminent-domain claims or purchases — land that lies under nearly 200 miles of proposed barrier.

At a Sept. 11 meeting at the White House led by adviser Jared Kushner, senior officials discussed a plan that would press lawmakers to backfill — or reimburse — \$3.6 billion of Pentagon funds that the administration diverted this year to pay for fence construction, the officials said. The White House also has requested \$5 billion for barrier funding in 2020 through the Department of Homeland Security budget, but if that money is not approved, the administration plans to dip into the Pentagon's construction budget for the

second consecutive year to get another \$3.6 billion, said the officials familiar with the plan.

The Democratic majority in the House is adamantly opposed to providing additional funding for the project.

If the administration carries out the plan, the White House will have defied Congress to divert a total of \$7.2 billion of Defense Department funds over two years.

When the White House was asked about the plan Thursday, a senior official responded that the discussion was "a typical project-management meeting where administration officials discussed border wall progress" and that the goal was to ensure that border security priorities were being fulfilled "and that additional needs were being assessed in the event more funding became available."

Trump's urgency about bar-

rier construction has unnerved top aides responsible for the project's completion and raised new concerns about potential shortcuts in contracting and procurement procedures.

Two days after the White House meeting, the head of the House Oversight and Reform Committee sent a letter to Lt. Gen. Todd Semonite, the head of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, asking for a briefing on border barrier procurement, saying the committee was investigating whether regular contracting processes were being bypassed to build the structure more quickly.

The House this week voted down a Republican motion to "backfill" the military construction funds. The money has been diverted from child-care facilities and schools on bases, as well as from maintenance and repairs on U.S. bases.

Navy asks Congress for 3 new Arleigh Burke-class destroyers

BY CHRISTIAN LOPEZ
Stars and Stripes

The Navy is asking Congress for more than \$5 billion next fiscal year to build three more Arleigh Burke-class destroyers, according to a Congressional Research Service report published Tuesday.

Building the warships would bring the number of guided-missile destroyers the Navy has procured to 85, according to the report. The latest version, or Flight III, incorporates a new air and missile defense radar system that requires further changes to the destroyer design.

Two shipbuilders — General Dynamics' Bath Iron Works in Maine and Huntington Ingalls Industries' Ingalls Shipbuilding in Mississippi — are capable of the job if Congress approves the estimated \$1.8 billion for

each vessel.

Construction of Arleigh Burke-class destroyers started in 1985 and their design has been modified over time. The Navy stopped building Arleigh Burkes from 2007-09 while it procured three Zumwalt-class destroyers instead.

Originally planning to put 32 Zumwalts to sea, the Navy curtailed their production when the price per ship continued to rise, according to the Congressional Research Service.

Destroyers and cruisers are considered "large surface combatants," as opposed to "small surface combatants," which include frigates, littoral combat ships and other vessels. The Navy in 2016 set a goal of 355 ships, of which 104 would be large ships.

At the end of the 2018 fiscal year, the Navy had a force of 88 large combatant ships, includ-

ing 66 destroyers, according to the updated report, "Navy DDG-51 and DDG-1000 Destroyer Programs: Background and Issues for Congress." If it sticks to its 30-year plan, the Navy will have 104 large warships by fiscal year 2029.

However, the Navy expects to procure its last destroyers in fiscal year 2025, after which it plans on a new class of large warship, according to the report.

The guided-missile destroyers specialize in air defense and come equipped with the Aegis combat system, which uses computers and radar to track and destroy targets.

For defense against enemy air and missile attack, destroyers procured since fiscal year 2017 will come equipped with the next generation air and missile defense radar, the SPY-6.

Truman's strike group sails without its carrier

BY SCOTT WYLAND
Stars and Stripes

The Navy's recently revived 2nd Fleet deployed a carrier strike group last week without its aircraft carrier, the USS Harry S. Truman, which remains idled because of an electrical malfunction.

Two guided-missile destroyers and other escort ships left Mayport, Fla., while crews continued working to repair the Truman's electrical system, which malfunctioned during a pre-deployment exercise in late August, USNI News reported.

Navy officials couldn't say when the Truman would be operational. The Navy's standard policy is not to discuss future operations, Capt. Scott Miller, a U.S. Fleet Forces Command spokesman, told USNI.

The Arleigh Burke-class destroyers USS Lassen and USS Farragut will be joined later by the destroyer USS Forrest Sherman and the guided-missile cruiser USS Normandy, USNI said.

A destroyer squadron will lead the Surface Action Group — a temporary stand-in for a normal carrier group — with 15 additional personnel to offset the absence of a carrier's usual capabilities, 2nd Fleet Commander Vice Adm. Andrew Lewis told USNI.

This is the first carrier deployment that the 2nd Fleet has overseen since it reached initial operational capability in May. It's also the first time that a Truman strike group has deployed since 2018.

The schedule was an example of "dynamic force employment," a strategy the Pentagon recently began employing again, in which ships and troop movements follow less-predictable patterns to throw off adversaries.

Navy commander accused of rape pleads to lesser assault charges, gets year in brig

BY ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

A Navy commander who faced a rape charge stemming from a drunken night in 2016 that led to three civilian criminal trials and a court-martial has accepted a plea deal to lesser charges that will keep him in the brig for a year.

The case landed in the military court system after three failed attempts in San Diego superior courts to convict Cmdr. John Michael Neuhart on civilian criminal charges.

Neuhart, 42, pleaded guilty to charges of assault and behavior unbecoming of an officer on Aug. 26 before a Navy judge in San Diego, said Brian O'Rourke, spokesman for Navy Region Southwest.

Neuhart pleaded not guilty to other charges against him, including rape, breaking into a home, indecent visual recording and fleeing apprehension, according to a charge sheet originally filed in January.

He was sentenced to one-year confinement at Naval Consolidated Brig Miramar in San Diego,

a forfeiture of \$1,000 in pay each month for six months and a letter of reprimand, O'Rourke said.

As part of the deal, Neuhart's pay will not be reduced so long as he continues to meet his required allotment of family support payments. However, Neuhart could still face dismissal from the Navy. His fate in the service will be determined by a board of inquiry, O'Rourke said.

This is the end of a legal battle that began following a 2016 incident in which a junior officer who served with Neuhart on Guam accused him of trying to rape her in her home in the Valencia Park neighborhood of San Diego, the San Diego Union-Tribune reported in 2018. The junior officer in the case was not named.

At the time, Neuhart was commander of Andersen Air Force Base's Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25.

Neuhart was removed from his command of the helicopter squadron on Guam and was put on administrative duties in San Diego during the trials.

Colt ends civilian sales of AR-15 rifles

BY WYATT OLSON

Stars and Stripes

Gunmaker Colt announced Thursday that it was discontinuing retail sales of its AR-15 line of semi-automatic rifles.

The company will continue to manufacture them for the military and law enforcement agencies, Dennis Veilleux, Colt's president and CEO, said in a statement.

The high-velocity AR-15 has gained notoriety as the weapon carried by gunmen in certain mass shootings in recent years. It was used in the Parkland, Fla., high school shooting last year that left 17 dead.

Mass shooters possessed AR-

15-style rifles in attacks in Las Vegas; Orlando, Fla.; and Newtown, Conn.

The weapon made headlines again last week during the Democratic presidential primary debates when candidate Beto O'Rourke said, "We're going to take your AR-15, your AK-47. We're not going to allow it to be used against our fellow Americans anymore."

Shooting Illustrated reported last week that firearms distributor RSR Group said Colt was going to focus on military and law-enforcement sales.

Colt's announcement on Thursday was a pushback on criticism that the company was

mismanaged and that it was not sufficiently committed to private gun ownership.

"The fact of the matter is that over the last few years, the market for modern sporting rifles has experienced significant excess manufacturing capacity," the statement said. "Given this level of manufacturing capacity, we believe there is adequate supply for modern sporting rifles for the foreseeable future."

The company sought to reassure customers that its commitment to the consumer market remains "unwavering."

"We want to assure you that Colt is committed to the Second Amendment, highly values

its customers and continues to manufacture the world's finest quality firearms for the consumer market," the statement said.

But demand by "our warfighters" and law enforcement personnel is high, "and we are fortunate enough to have been awarded significant military and law enforcement contracts," the statement said. "Currently, these high-volume contracts are absorbing all of Colt's manufacturing capacity for rifles."

Colt continues to expand both its network of dealers in the United States and its line of handguns, the statement said.

Marine unit wants to hold annual ball at Mar-a-Lago

Miami Herald

MIAMI — At a time when taxpayer and foreign-government spending at Trump Organization properties is fueling political battles, a U.S. Marine Corps reserve unit stationed in South Florida hopes to hold an annual ball at a venue that could profit the commander in chief.

The unit is planning a gala to celebrate the 244th anniversary of the Marines' founding at President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago club in Palm Beach on Nov. 16, according to a posting on the events website Evensi.

"It's a work in progress," said a Marine who picked up the phone late Thursday at the drill center of the 4th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company (ANGLICO) in West Palm Beach. "We are planning on Mar-a-Lago but nothing is set in stone. We booked it but there were complications involved. It's just money and some other things. We're doing our best."

The Marine said a final decision would be made next week. A link from the event posting

to buy tickets was not working late Thursday.

It wasn't immediately clear how much Mar-a-Lago would charge to host the Marine Corps Birthday Ball — or even if it might do so for free. As many as 700 guests have attended previous balls for the 4th ANGLICO, according to invitations posted online.

While specific funding sources for the upcoming ball are unclear, the practice of spending taxpayer money at Trump properties has been criticized by Democrats and government watchdogs. A recent Politico report on U.S. Air Force crews being lodged at Trump's resort in Scotland led Air Force leaders to order an internal review. Trump has also raised the possibility of bringing the Group of 7 gathering of world leaders to his financially struggling resort in Doral.

Details about the event were hard to come by late Thursday. Mar-a-Lago reception staff had departed their stations early in the afternoon, keeping to the club's less-strenuous off-season schedule, a security staffer said.

AFRICOM airstrike in Libya kills 8 ISIS fighters

BY JOHN VANDIVER

Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — A U.S. airstrike has killed eight Islamic State fighters in southwestern Libya, marking the first such attack by American forces in the country this year, U.S. Africa Command said Friday.

"U.S. Africa Command conducted this airstrike to eliminate terrorist leaders and fighters and to disrupt terrorist activity," AFRICOM's Gen. Stephen Townsend said in a statement. "We will not allow them to use the current conflict in Libya as protection."

The strike was carried out in the vicinity of Murzuq on Thursday in coordination with the Libyan government, AFRICOM said.

No civilians were killed or injured in the strike, according to an AFRICOM assessment.

AFRICOM did not say what type of aircraft carried out the strikes or where they came from.

"Due to operational security, I cannot get into platform specifics, but I will say we have a

range of capabilities at various locations in the region that allow us to carry out these airstrikes," said Becky Farmer, an AFRICOM spokeswoman.

Among the locations available to AFRICOM is a new base in central Niger, where the U.S. Air Force last month began conducting surveillance operations. Known as Nigerien Air Base 201, the site was established to serve as a launching pad for conducting reconnaissance missions that extend into southern Libya.

For the past eight years, Libya has been embroiled in a civil war that has pitted a U.S.-backed central government against various militia groups. The U.S. has raised concerns that the military conflict and overall disorder could allow groups such as ISIS-Libya to seek sanctuary in the North African country.

"Together with our Libyan partners, we will continue to deny terrorists safe haven in Libya," Townsend said.

Storm soaks Houston area, kills at least 2

Associated Press

CHINA, Texas — Emergency crews continued to pull motorists and others from high water Friday after the remnants of Tropical Storm Imelda soaked the Houston area, leaving at least two people dead during the relentless downpour.

The aftermath from Imelda, which drew comparisons to Hurricane Harvey two years ago, was blamed for major travel headaches as motorists slogged through water-swollen streets and air travelers faced flight delays and cancellations.

Nine barges broke free of their moorings, and Interstate 10 over the San Jacinto River was closed in both directions when two of the barges struck the bridges. Nearly 123,000 vehicles normally cross the bridges each day, according to the Texas

Department of Transportation.

The heaviest rainfall had ended by Thursday night in southeast Texas, but forecasters warned that parts of northeast Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Louisiana could see flash flooding as Imelda's remnants shifted to the north.

Officials in Harris County, which includes Houston, said there had been a combination of at least 1,700 high-water rescues and evacuations to get people to shelter as the longevity and intensity of the rain quickly came to surprise even those who had been bracing for floods. The storm also flooded parts of southwestern Louisiana.

More than 900 flights were canceled or delayed in Houston on Thursday. Further along the Texas Gulf Coast, authorities at one point warned that a levee could break

near Beaumont in Jefferson County. During Harvey, Beaumont's only pump station was swamped by floodwaters, leaving residents without water service for more than a week.

Imelda's remnants on Thursday led to the deaths of two men. A 19-year-old man drowned and was electrocuted while trying to move his horse to safety, according to a message from his family shared by the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office. Crystal Holmes, a spokeswoman for the department, said the death occurred during a lightning storm.

A man in his 40s or 50s drowned when he tried to drive a van through 8-foot-deep floodwaters near Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston during the Thursday afternoon rush hour, Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez said.

Trump defends himself against whistleblower

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump repeatedly defended himself Friday against an intelligence whistleblower's potentially explosive complaint, including an allegation of wrongdoing in a reported private conversation Trump had with a foreign leader.

The complaint, which the administration has refused to let Congress see, remains shrouded in mystery but is "serious" and "urgent," the government's intelligence watchdog said. But Trump dismissed the matter, insisting he did nothing wrong.

He declared Friday that the complaint was made by a "partisan whistleblower," though he later said he did not know the identity of the person.

He chided reporters for asking about it and said the complaint was "just another political hack job."

"I have conversations with many leaders. It's always appropriate. Always appropriate," Trump said. "At the highest level always appropriate. And anything I do, I fight for this country."

Some of the whistleblower's allegations appear to center on Ukraine, according to The Washington Post and The New York Times. The newspapers cited anonymous sources familiar with the matter. The Associated Press has not confirmed the reports.

Trump, who sat in the Oval Office with Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, whom he was hosting for a state visit, was asked if he knew if the whistleblower's

complaint centered on a July 25 phone call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. The president responded "I really don't know" but continued to insist any phone call he made with a head of state was "perfectly fine and respectful."

The standoff raises fresh questions about the extent to which Trump's allies are protecting the Republican president from oversight and, specifically, whether his new acting director of national intelligence, Joseph Maguire, is working with the Justice Department to shield the president from the reach of Congress.

It also plunged the Trump administration into an extraordinary showdown with Congress over access to the whistleblower's complaint as lawmakers press their oversight of the executive branch.

As vaping-related illnesses rise, 8th death reported

Associated Press

NEW YORK — More than 500 people have been diagnosed with vaping-related breathing illnesses, but the cause remains unknown, U.S. health officials said Thursday. An eighth death was also reported.

Meanwhile, the Food and Drug Administration revealed that its criminal investigations unit started tracking leads early on, as cases pointed to black market vaping products. The agency's tobacco director, Mitch Zeller, stressed that it is not interested in prosecuting individuals who use ille-

gal products but is lending a hand because of the unit's "special skills."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said 530 confirmed and probable cases have been reported in 38 states and one U.S. territory, up from 380 a week ago.

Missouri joined the list later Thursday, announcing the death this week of a man in his mid-40s at a St. Louis hospital.

Canada reported its first case Wednesday, a high school student who was on life support and has since recovered.

All patients had used an electronic ciga-

rette or other vaping device.

Doctors have said the illnesses resemble an inhalation injury, with the lungs apparently reacting to a caustic substance. So far, no single vaping product or ingredient has been linked to the illnesses, though most patients reported vaping THC, the high-producing ingredient in marijuana.

The man who died in Missouri told his family he started vaping in May for chronic pain, but investigators have not yet determined if he was vaping THC, according to a spokeswoman at Mercy Hospital St. Louis.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Woman: No regrets for buried body in backyard

ME NORWAY — A woman says she buried her friend in the backyard of a home in Norway, Maine, where officials discovered the body this week.

Vernelle Jackson says she fulfilled the dying wish of her friend — and has no regrets.

Jackson, 83, says her friend died 18 months ago. She said it took her two days to bury her because she suffers from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease.

Jackson said her friend moved in with her when she fell ill.

Jackson said state police told her she needed a permit to bury her friend in her backyard. She said she's not sure if she is in any legal trouble.

Officers responding to shooting hit each other

LA SHREVEPORT — Police say two officers overheard shots fired and were responding to the scene when they crashed their cruisers into each other.

Shreveport police Officer Christina Curtis told news outlets that the officers were hospitalized for serious injuries sustained in the Wednesday crash. Curtis said the shooting victim had been repeatedly shot while outside a residential area and was pronounced dead at a hospital. The details surrounding the shooting are unclear.

Photos of the crash scene show a damaged police sedan and SUV. The sedan is seen with its hood nearly torn off, its windshield shattered and its driver's side door crumpled. The SUV appears to have suffered less damage.

Woman drives SUV onto sidewalk and hits man

PA BETHLEHEM — Authorities say an argument between a man and a woman ended when she drove an SUV onto the sidewalk and hit him, then made a U-turn and tried to run him over again.

Bethlehem police say city resident Crystal Legrand, 34, faces several counts, including aggravated assault and reckless endangerment.

Witnesses said Legrand and the man were arguing around 5 p.m. Sunday when the man started walking away. They say Legrand got in the SUV and drove toward him, but got out of the vehicle and started arguing with him again.

A short time later, she got back in the SUV and drove onto the sidewalk, hitting the man. He suffered some injuries.

Man awaiting auto theft trial seen in stolen truck

NM GALLUP — Authorities say a New Mexico man with three pending auto theft cases was recently arrested — again — for driving a stolen vehicle.

The Gallup Independent reported Justin Villa, 37, was arrested Sunday after a witness reported seeing the man driving a stolen Chevrolet pickup.

According to a criminal complaint, Villa was spotted in the stolen truck around Gallup, N.M., before being confronted by a police officer.

Court documents show Villa has two stolen vehicle cases pending in McKinley County and one pending in Cibola County.

Prosecutor R. David Pederson said Villa had been released on his own recognizance in one case.

Police: Woman fleeing traffic stop crashes car

RI NORTHSMITHFIELD — Police say a Rhode Island woman fleeing a traffic stop crashed into a town hall building so violently that her car broke in two.

North Smithfield police say they tried to pull over a car at about 9 p.m. Wednesday for driving erratically, but the driver would not stop. The car crashed into North Smithfield Town Hall.

The driver, identified as Stephanie Plante, 32, of Johnston, faces several charges including drunken driving and drug offenses after police say they found narcotics and marijuana in the car.

Neither Plante nor her passenger was seriously hurt.

Hunter recovering after grizzly attacks

MT BOZEMAN — Montana officials say a Washington state man remains in stable condition and two New Mexico men have been treated and released after back-to-back grizzly bear attacks in the same area.

Fish Wildlife and Parks spokesman Morgan Jacobsen said authorities were still trying to determine if the attacks involved the same bear.

They occurred Monday within a mile of one another in the Gravelly mountains of southwestern Montana.

In the first encounter, two archery hunters from New Mexico were tracking elk when a bear charged and injured both men. It left after being sprayed with bear spray. That evening, two hunters from Washington were charged by a bear and one of them was mauled. The men fired gunshots at the animal until it left. Jacobsen says it's unclear if they hit the bear.

Man accused of making vulgar 911 calls

FL MARATHON — A man is accused of calling 911 and making vulgar comments to dispatchers about sheriff's deputies who had been trying to assist him in the Florida Keys.

Monroe County Sheriff's spokesman Adam Linhardt said in an email that Robert Salwin, 44, was arrested Wednesday and charged with misusing the 911 system.

Linhardt says dispatchers played recordings back to deputies of Salwin's sexually graphic and curse-laden calls.

The deputies then tracked down Salwin and arrested him. Linhardt says Salwin is well-known to deputies for frequent alcohol-related encounters.

Man climbs 400 feet up tower near TV station

FL ORLANDO — Authorities say a man spent nearly eight hours on a 400-foot tower outside a central Florida television station studio.

Orlando police officers surrounded WKMG on Wednesday as crisis negotiators attempted to engage the man through a bullhorn.

WKMG reported traffic anchor Steve Montiero first noticed the man going into a secured area around 11 a.m. and then climbing the tower. Firefighters initially tried to climb after him, but the man just climbed higher. He eventually started a slow descent in the afternoon and made it safely to the ground.

Police investigators say they believe the man has a history of mental illness.

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Minshew helps lead Jaguars past Titans

Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Minshew Mania is gaining momentum.

Gardner Minshew threw two touchdown passes and should have had a third, Calais Campbell spearheaded another defensive gem and the Jacksonville Jaguars handled the Tennessee Titans 20-7 in sloppy conditions Thursday night.

Jacksonville (1-2) ended a four-game losing streak in the AFC South series and avoided the franchise's second 0-3 start in four years.

"This felt good," defensive tackle Abry Jones said. "We needed this."

With all eyes on star cornerback Jalen Ramsey, who might have played his final game for Jacksonville, Minshew and a second stellar defensive outing in five days captured the spotlight.

A sixth-round draft pick starting his second consecu-

tive game in place of injured Nick Foles (broken collarbone), Minshew completed 20 of 30 passes for 204 yards. He found tight end James O'Shaughnessy wide open for a 7-yard score, which came one play after Adoree' Jackson's muffed punt return. Minshew was more precise with a 22-yard TD pass to wide receiver DJ Chark, who was blanketed by Titans cornerback Malcolm Butler.

Fans chanted Minshew's name each time the offense took the field, and they also donned fake mustaches and bandanas to mimic his signature look.

Titans quarterback Marcus Mariota got no style points in this one. Jacksonville sacked Mariota nine times, including three by Campbell.

"You seen what the D-line did," Ramsey said, declining to talk about his potential trade. "Today was their day. Everybody got a piece of it. I was excited to see those guys have a

huge game."

The Jaguars played well enough to win at Houston last week, especially on the defensive side, but came up inches short on a two-point conversion attempt and lost 13-12.

Ramsey then gut-punched a franchise already reeling from the loss of Foles by requesting a trade hours after the loss to the Texans. He asked to get out following a sideline confrontation with coach Doug Marrone.

The Jaguars enjoyed a 14-point lead in the first quarter for the first time since Week 2 of last season against New England and just the third time in the past five seasons.

The Titans (1-2) struggled to play from behind.

With his team trailing 14-0 early in the third quarter, coach Mike Vrabel passed on a short field goal attempt and went for it on fourth-and-6 at the 11. Campbell bulled his way past backup guard Jamil Doug-

las, and Mariota had no time to get rid of the ball.

"That's not how you want to play that football team, from behind," Vrabel said. "We talked about that. This football team, you don't want to play from behind. They can really rush the passer."

Tennessee finally got on the scoreboard with Derrick Henry's 1-yard plunge early in the fourth. Henry finished with 44 yards on 17 carries, a far cry from his last game against Jacksonville. In that contest, Henry ran for a franchise-record 238 yards and four touchdowns, including the second 99-yard run in NFL history (Tony Dorsett, 1983), in December.

Jacksonville wasn't going to let it happen again, stacking the box and doing a much better job tackling the 247-pound back.

Even Ramsey got in a couple of shots on the 2015 Heisman Trophy winner.

Ramsey plays well for Jacksonville after demanding trade

Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — The defensive shutdown complete, Jaguars cornerback Jalen Ramsey shared a hug and private words with A.J. Bouye, D.J. Hayden and a few other members of a Jacksonville defense that won the day in a 20-7 victory Thursday night over the Tennessee Titans.

Hugs of celebration or hugs of farewell?

Ramsey wasn't saying.

No one else was sure.

In his first game since demanding a trade, the Jaguars' troubled but talented shutdown cornerback made it look as though it was business as usual. Ramsey heard a smattering of cheers when he jogged onto the field an hour before kickoff — right before it started raining — and his share of boos during the game.

"You still don't know what's going to happen," Bouye said. "He told us he's out there rock-

ing with us. We knew it was going to be a different type of energy in the stadium with the fans, but he was able to maintain focus and stay with us. He could have checked out plenty of times, but he never did.

"He went out and did what he does and just competed."

Bouye said their embrace after the game was special, even if he wasn't sure where it would lead.

"(Ramsey) just said, 'We'll see what happens. Let's keep rocking until then,'" Bouye said. "It's going to be a long weekend seeing what happens."

The Jaguars (1-2) have 10 days to figure out the next step before they play at Denver.

Ramsey, chatting away at receivers on the field as usual Thursday night, was on silent mode when it came to talk about wanting out.

"I don't want to answer any questions about the trade or anything," he said.

Asked if it felt like a normal game, he said this was in prime time and everything was "a little bit more amped up."

Ramsey was far more clear about wanting a trade in an appearance on the Uninterrupted "17 Weeks" podcast with Nate Burleson, which came out hours before the game. Ramsey said the trade request stemmed from "some disrespectful things said on their end" in a meeting after the Jaguars' loss Sunday at Houston.

The shouting match with coach Doug Marrone? Ramsey wrote that off to passion and emotion, which happens all over the league.

He held his ground on wanting out of Jacksonville.

"Requesting the trade ... it's kind of been building over time," Ramsey said on the podcast, which was taped Monday. "It has nothing to do with my teammates here. It has nothing to do with the city. ... But it's more so with the front office

and the organization."

Jags owner Shad Khan told the NFL Network, "This is a team sport, and I think I am very sensitive to individual needs. But we have to do the right thing for the team."

Ramsey delivered a strong performance in the loss to the Texans, holding DeAndre Hopkins to four catches for 27 yards when he covered him. He also dropped an interception right in his gut that looked certain to go for a touchdown.

But the moment that stands out was when Marrone didn't challenge Hopkins' first-down catch late in the first quarter. Ramsey yelled at Marrone as he walked off the field. Marrone responded by getting in Ramsey's face and screaming.

He said he had moved beyond that until after the game. Ramsey described the locker room atmosphere as tough. He didn't say who met with him from the Jaguars, only that he didn't like what was said.

Laws shows he can run Army's offense

Associated Press

WEST POINT, N.Y. — Army coach Jeff Monken was unsure before the season who might be able to step in at quarterback if starter Kelvin Hopkins Jr. got injured because there was no experience behind the senior.

None of the four upperclassmen listed at quarterback — a junior and three sophomores — had any game experience, and giving one of the seven incoming freshmen QBs a shot was a long shot at best. Before last week's game at Texas-San Antonio, only sophomore Jabari Laws had seen action, and his Army résumé was one rush for 3 yards — in the season-opening victory over Rice.

What a difference a game has made as the Black Knights (2-1) prepare to host Morgan State (0-2) on Saturday at Michie Stadium, where Army has won 14 straight.

When Hopkins had to sit last Saturday

with an undisclosed injury, Laws stepped in and led Army to a 31-13 road victory over Texas-San Antonio. His first play was a 35-yard run as the Black Knights scored in 53 seconds. Laws finished with 137 yards rushing and a touchdown on 23 carries, the first Army player to eclipse 100 yards rushing this season.

Now, opponents have another set of legs to worry about in that tricky triple option, a welcome development after a tough double-overtime loss to then-No. 7 Michigan.

"Jabari was phenomenal," Army defensive back Elijah Riley said. "He stepped into big shoes and definitely did his best to fill them. He had that breakout run on the very first play of the game. I thought that was a confidence booster for him. I knew he was capable of doing that."

Laws said he was told last Thursday to be ready, and prepared for the game with junior Christian Anderson and freshman

Jemel Jones.

"We just prepared the whole week as if we were going to play," said Laws, who scored on a 41-yard run in the third quarter. "I was really anxious, but my teammates did a great job of calming me down and telling me they had my back. Kelvin Hopkins did a great job of leading me and getting my head back into the game, just giving me small pep talks."

Hopkins, who had a hip injury last season and missed one game, has been practicing just as he was last week, but with a bye week coming after Saturday's game, Laws is ready for more time.

"I think I did OK for the first time," Laws said. "I definitely could have done better with my footwork and fundamentals. I felt like if I had done better in that aspect the game would have been different."

Coan, Cephus lead Wisconsin's balanced offense vs. Michigan

Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — A new-look Wisconsin team will be set for Big Ten action when the 13th-ranked Badgers host No. 11 Michigan on Saturday.

Specifically, junior quarterback Jack Coan and wide receiver Quintez Cephus add a dimension to Wisconsin's arsenal compared to last season, when the Wolverines trounced the Badgers, 38-13, in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Coan and Cephus didn't play in the 2018 matchup for the Badgers (2-0) who, like the Wolverines (2-0), are fresh off a bye week.

"They have a great defense," Coan said of Michigan. "It's full of athletes, especially the defensive backs. (Their) linebackers can cut really well and obviously the D-line gets a lot of pressure."

Coan ranks ninth nationally with a pass efficiency rating of 184.5, which was boosted by a career-best effort in Wisconsin's 61-0 win over Central Michigan on Sept. 7. He finished 26-for-33 for 363 yards and three touchdowns — all career highs — against the Chippewas for a 201.2 pass efficiency rating.

Cephus was Coan's main target through the air during the Central Michigan romp, as Cephus earned career highs of six receptions for 130 yards and two touchdowns.

The university expelled Cephus last year

on two counts of sexual assault and announced his reinstatement on Aug. 19, after he was found not guilty of the charges.

The pass game was a nonfactor last year at Michigan, as former Badgers quarterback Alex Hornibrook was 7-for-20 for 100 yards and one touchdown.

But a combination of playmaking on the ground and in the air likely will be the best strategy against Michigan.

"I think the offense as a whole — for me, the offensive line, the receivers — we're all planning on playing better," Coan said. "We'll see what happens."

Wisconsin tailback Jonathan Taylor doesn't consider the game between ranked opponents as one in which he'll enhance his résumé. Besides posting 35 carries for 243 yards and five touchdowns in two victories, the All-American also has caught five passes for 65 yards and three additional scores.

Taylor acknowledges the Badgers' offense will be better served in the long run if there's balance. He leads the nation with eight touchdowns and averages 151 yards from scrimmage.

"This is a game where a running back like me can do whatever I can to help the team win," Taylor said. "It's one of those teams that everyone is going to have to do their job and execute."

Tulane shocks Houston with fake field goal

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Jalen McCleskey scored on a 53-yard catch-and-run with 3 seconds left, and Tulane rallied from a 21-point deficit to beat Houston 38-31 on Thursday night.

After Houston tied it at 31 with 21 seconds remaining, Tulane appeared to be content to go to overtime, but a fake kneel-down led to an 18-yard run by Amare Jones. One play later, McCleskey made a catch in traffic over the middle, broke a tackle and raced to the end zone.

Houston returned the ensuing kickoff 51 yards, but time expired.

McCleskey finished with four catches for 120 yards and two scores for Tulane (3-1, 1-0 American Athletic Conference), which trailed 28-7 in the second quarter. Justin McMillan completed 7 of 20 passes for 186 yards and three touchdowns.

D'Eriq King threw for 229 yards and two scores, and ran for 116 yards and a TD for Houston (1-3, 0-1). King broke former Florida quarterback Tim Tebow's FBS record for the most consecutive games (15) with at least one passing and rushing touchdown.

It was the 21st straight game the Houston defense recorded a turnover.

Yankees' 100th win clinches AL East

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Aroldis Chapman got Albert Pujols to swing over a slider in the dirt, and the New York Yankees jogged to the infield to exchange handshakes and hugs after clinching their first AL East title since 2012.

No wild celebration, not this year.

Hours after the startling news that pitcher Domingo German was placed on administrative leave under Major League Baseball's domestic violence policy, the homer-happy Yankees routed the Los Angeles Angels 9-1 Thursday

night to wrap up first place and breeze to their 100th win.

DJ LeMahieu hit a go-ahead, three-run homer for yet another big moment in his first year with New York and old mainstay Brett Gardner homered and had three RBIs.

Players decided it was not a night for dogpiles, not given how many already have gotten hurt, some in bizarre mishaps.

"We're just trying to avoid injuries," LeMahieu said.

A day after wasting a chance to clinch first place, the Yankees went ahead when LeMahieu went deep in the second inning.

Gardner, among just two holdovers from their last World Series championship team in 2009, added a solo shot in the fourth and then hit a two-run double in the sixth. Cameron Maybin and Clint Frazier homered for good measure in the eighth.

"You got a team full of savages," slugger Aaron Judge said, invoking the word manager Aaron Boone made famous during his midsummer rant at an umpire. "It's been a long season, a lot of ups and downs. We're going to celebrate and enjoy tonight, but we got a lot more baseball to play."

Despite putting 30 players on the injured list this year, New York (100-54) made Boone the first manager to win 100 games in each of his first two major league seasons.

"We got a lot bigger fish to fry, but this is the first step along the way," Boone said. "Nothing has got in their way. Whatever has come adversity-wise, they faced it and powered right through it."

The Yankees open the playoffs on Oct. 4, likely against Minnesota, which leads the AL Central.

MLB roundup

Braves clinch at least tie for first in NL East

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Ronald Acuna Jr. became the second-youngest player in baseball history to hit 40 homers in a season, Freddie Freeman also drove in two runs and Atlanta clinched at least a tie for first place in the NL East with a 5-4 victory over Philadelphia.

The Braves hold a 9½-game lead over the Washington Nationals, who have played three fewer games and were off Thursday. Atlanta can officially celebrate as soon as Friday with either a victory over the San Francisco Giants or if Washington loses at Miami.

The Phillies trail Milwaukee by four games in the race for the NL's second wild-card spot.

Mel Ott, who was 20 when he hit 42 homers for the New York Giants in 1940, is the only player younger than Acuna to post a 40-homer season.

Aaron Nola (12-6) worked five-plus innings, giving up nine hits, two hits and all five Atlanta runs.

Mark Melancon worked a perfect ninth for his 11th save with Atlanta and 12th overall this season.

Cardinals 5, Cubs 4 (10): Matt Carpenter homered in the 10th inning against Craig Kimbrel in the All-Star closer's return, and St. Louis regrouped after blowing a late lead to win at Chicago.

Emerging ace Jack Flaherty shut down the Cubs over eight innings, and despite a tying three-run rally in the ninth, Chicago

dropped a game behind Milwaukee for the second NL wild card and four games behind the Cardinals for first place in the NL Central.

Cubs slugger Anthony Rizzo provided a jolt in his unexpected return from a sprained right ankle, homering in the third inning to tie the game at 1. But Flaherty was spectacular otherwise, pitching three-hit ball while allowing just the one run and striking out eight.

Carpenter homered to deep center field off Kimbrel (0-3), who was activated from the injured list prior to the game after dealing with right elbow inflammation.

Giovanny Gallegos pitched a perfect 10th for his first save in two chances. Andrew Miller (5-5) recorded the final two outs in the ninth for the victory.

Brewers 5, Padres 1: Lorenzo Cain homered before exiting with a sore ankle, Milwaukee pitchers combined to strike out 16 and the team improved its playoff position by beating visiting San Diego.

The Brewers are in the second wild-card slot and moved within one game of Washington for the top NL wild-card spot and three games behind Central-leading St. Louis. Ryan Braun put Milwaukee ahead with an RBI double in the first inning off Joey Lucchesi (10-9). The Brewers added a run in the third when Keston Huirra doubled and later scored on Lucchesi's wild pitch.

Twins 8, Royals 5: Nelson Cruz hit two of Minnesota's four home runs and matched his season high with five RBIs, ig-

ning another impressive power display by the first-place Twins. The win over visiting Kansas City kept Minnesota's American League Central lead at four games — with nine games to go.

Indians 7, Tigers 0: Mike Clevinger pitched six shutdown innings, Franmil Reyes homered in his return to the lineup and host Cleveland moved into a tie for the second AL wild card with a win over Detroit.

Francisco Lindor added three hits, and the Indians matched idle Tampa Bay at 90-63. Both teams trail Oakland by two games for the top spot.

Red Sox 5, Giants 4: Eduardo Rodriguez struck out 10 over six innings of two-hit ball, and Xander Bogaerts had a pair of RBI singles to lead host Boston over San Francisco.

Brandon Workman picked up his 15th save. Rodriguez (18-6) walked two and allowed one unearned run.

Mariners 6, Pirates 5 (11): Shed Long had three hits, two RBIs and scored the go-ahead run in the 11th on an unusual inning-ending double play as Seattle won at Pittsburgh.

The Mariners swept the three-game series between last-place teams and sent the Pirates to their sixth straight loss.

Blue Jays 8, Orioles 4: Cavan Biggio homered and had three RBIs to offset a spectacular, homer-robbing catch by Austin Hays, and Toronto used a six-run seventh inning to win at Baltimore for a three-game sweep.