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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Iran asks West to leave Persian Gulf

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran's president on Sunday called on Western powers to leave the security of the Persian Gulf to regional nations led by Tehran, criticizing a new U.S.-led coalition patrolling the region's waterways as nationwide parades showcased the Islamic Republic's military arsenal.

Hassan Rouhani separately promised to unveil a regional peace plan at this week's upcoming high-level meetings at the United Nations, which come amid heightened Middle East tensions following a series of attacks, including a missile and drone assault on Saudi Arabia's oil industry.

The U.S. alleges Iran carried out the Sept. 14 attack on the world's largest oil processor in the kingdom and an oil field, which caused oil prices to spike by the biggest percentage since the 1991 Gulf War. While Yemen's Iran-allied Houthi rebels claimed

the assault, Saudi Arabia says it was "unquestionably sponsored by Iran."

For its part, Iran denies being responsible and has warned that any retaliatory attack targeting it will result in an "all-out war." That's as it has begun enriching uranium beyond the terms of its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, which the U.S. unilaterally withdrew from more than a year earlier.

Rouhani spoke from a riser at the parade in Tehran, with uniformed officers from the country's military and its paramilitary Revolutionary Guard beside him. The cleric later watched as marching soldiers carrying submachine guns and portable missile launchers drove past as part of "Holy Defense Week," which marks the start of the Iran-Iraq war in 1980.

Rouhani said Iran was willing to "extend the hand of friendship and brotherhood" to Persian Gulf nations and was "even ready

to forgive their past mistakes."

Rouhani added that the U.S. and Western nations should "distance" themselves from the region.

"Your presence has always been a calamity for this region, and the farther you go from our region and our nations, the more security would come for our region," he said.

The U.S. maintains defense agreements across the Persian Gulf with allied Arab nations. Since 1980, it has viewed the region as crucial to its national security, given its energy exports. The U.S. plans to send additional troops to the region over the tensions.

The parades and maneuvers Sunday appeared aimed at projecting Iranian strength as naval vessels, submarines and armed speedboats swarmed across the Persian Gulf and troops showed off land-to-sea missiles capable of targeting the U.S. Navy.

Russia mocks failure of US systems in arms sales pitch

The Washington Post

The attack on Saudi Arabian oil facilities on Sept. 14 was a disaster for both Riyadh and Washington, as weapons allegedly made in Iran circumvented expensive U.S. missile defense systems.

But in Moscow, news of the attack was greeted as yet another chance to mock the U.S. and its allies — all while extolling the virtues of Russia's own missile defense technology.

"We still remember the fantastic U.S. missiles that failed to hit a target more than a year ago, while now the brilliant U.S. air defense systems could not repel an attack," Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told a briefing on Friday. "These are all links in a chain."

Russian President Vladimir Putin, in Ankara for a meeting with Turkish and Iranian leaders on Sept. 16, went further by

suggesting that Saudi Arabia would have been saved from the weekend attack if it had purchased a missile defense system made by Russia.

"The political leadership of Saudi Arabia just needs to make a wise state decision," Putin said, pointing to the purchase of the S-300 missile system by Iran and the S-400 missile system by Turkey.

The rivalry between the U.S. and Russia over arms sales has existed ever since the Cold War. Between 2014 and 2018, they were the two largest exporters of arms in the world, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

During the past few years, that rivalry has grown especially bitter as geopolitical conflict and new technology brought U.S. and Russian arms into close contact. In the Middle East, where tension and war have led to a surge in arms

sales, Washington and Moscow often compete for the same clients.

Though the United States generally claims to offer superiority, some weapons systems produced by Russia are challenging that. Chief among them is the S-400 missile defense system, a widely touted — though ultimately untested — rival to the U.S.-made Patriot missile system.

The attack on the oil facilities in the Saudi districts of Khurais and Abqaiq on Saturday morning appeared to involve cruise missiles and drones that were able to avoid detection by and activation of Saudi Arabia's missile defense system.

Notably, that system includes Patriot batteries and it is generally designed to combat ballistic missiles and airplanes that can be spotted from further away.

As cruise missiles and drones

can fly closer to the ground, the curvature of the Earth makes them harder for radar to spot unless the radar is elevated.

Russia's systems are capable of using mobile radar masts to combat that problem. The S-400 is also designed to operate in any direction, whereas Patriot systems are limited to whatever direction they are set up in. Some analysts have suggested that many of the Patriot batteries deployed near the oil facilities targeted Saturday may not have been looking in the right direction to deter the attack.

While Russia's S-400 system may have impressive specifications on paper, many analysts are cautious in their assessment of it. It has not been fully tested in real life, whereas the Patriot system successfully intercepted missiles during both the Gulf War and the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.

Typhoon in Koreas' JSA unites 2 sides

BY KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — A deadly typhoon that tore through the Korean Peninsula earlier this month didn't spare the truce village of Panmunjom that straddles the border between North and South.

Storm damage at the Joint Security Area was relatively minor but had a diplomatic side effect, bringing together the North Koreans and members of the U.S.-led United Nations Command for repairs.

"Following Typhoon Lingling, personnel on both sides of the Joint Security Area (JSA) recognized the need for damage repairs and maintenance activities," the U.N. Command said in a statement Friday.

The command also tweeted several photos showing North Koreans fixing a roof, spraying a hose and sweeping up around buildings known as "conference row" because of past talks that have been held there. U.N. Command security battalion soldiers were shown watching from the other side.

The armistice that ended the 1950-53 Korean War in lieu of a peace treaty was signed in one of the iconic blue buildings, and the area has become a popular tourist destination.

The JSA is the only point on the border where troops from both sides come face-to-face.

But the North Koreans haven't been very communicative since nuclear talks with Washington broke down after their leader, Kim Jong Un, and President Donald Trump failed to reach agreement during a February summit in Vietnam.

Trump and Kim agreed to resume working-level talks during an impromptu June 30 meeting at the JSA, but no date has been set.

Typhoon Lingling, which killed several people and left heavy damage in both Koreas, brought a momentary renewed sense of cooperation at the JSA. The work took place Sept. 12-14, officials said.

The U.N. command said the cooperation was a reminder "of the importance of the JSA as an active link between all parties."

Tensions have eased since the two Koreas agreed during their third summit a year ago to transform the heavily fortified border into a peace zone. Soldiers from both sides are no longer armed, and many guard posts have been removed.

With muleskinner's death, only 9 famed Marauders remain

BY WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

At age 98 and living his last days in a hospice facility in northern Michigan, Henry C. Smith wanted to set the Army's record straight on what happened 75 years ago in the jungles of Burma.

Former Sgt. Smith — a member of the famed Merrill's Marauders that waged guerrilla warfare on the occupying Japanese — was leading an intelligence and reconnaissance patrol of roughly a dozen men in April 1944.

They chanced upon an enemy patrol perhaps 20 times their size, and the Marauders fought it out for several days before running out of ammunition.

The five surviving Marauders were captured and "subjected to beatings, humiliation and starvation," according to the citation accompanying the Silver Star that Smith was awarded by the unit's namesake, Brig. Gen. Frank Merrill.

Smith, however, tricked one of his captors into untying the ropes binding him, and the 21-year-old soldier overpowered and killed him. He then single-handedly killed eight other guards before releasing the other U.S. prisoners and escap-

ing into the jungle, the Silver Star citation states.

But it wasn't eight, Smith told Wes Goldman, a former Army Ranger who befriended the old veteran in the months before his death on Aug. 5.

"I don't think they're telling the truth about that," Smith told Goldman. "I think they're exaggerating. I think I only killed five guys."

With Smith's death, only nine veterans of Merrill's Marauders are known to be living, said Jonnie Melillo Clasen, whose father, Vincent Melillo, was a Marauder who died in 2015.

"Henry Smith was one of the Marauders I talked to," Clasen said.

"He said, 'I'm just an old muleskinner in a wheelchair and I live alone. If you call me and keep on calling and I don't answer, that means I've gone on. But while you're calling around, if you find another muleskinner out there, I sure would like to talk to him.'"

The muleskinner's job was to feed, pack and cajole the unit's mules, which were the primary way to move supplies, radios and weapons around the jungles of Burma.

4 Marine Ospreys fly to Hawaii after Australia drill

BY WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — Four MV-22 Ospreys arrived in Hawaii on Thursday from Australia, the fourth trans-Pacific flight the tilt-rotor aircraft have made.

The Ospreys were part of the Marine Rotational Force-Darwin aviation combat element, the Marine Corps said in a statement Friday.

The Ospreys had spent the past six months in Australia training in more than a dozen

exercises across the country, the statement said.

Accompanying the Ospreys, which are part of Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 363, Reinforced, were two KC-130J Hercules cargo planes.

"Being able to fly our aircraft from Australia to Hawaii is a great example of the flexibility and options that the Ospreys create for a commander," Maj. Kyle Ladwig, operations officer for Squadron 363, said in the statement.

The Ospreys and Hercules stopped at islands on the route so that aircrews could rest and refuel the aircraft.

Ospreys — which are capable of landing and taking off like helicopters but can fly at fixed-wing speeds — made their first trans-Pacific flight between the Hawaii and Australia in April 2017, departing from Marine Corps Base Hawaii for the roughly 6,000-mile trip.

In May, four Ospreys flew to Hawaii from Okinawa, Japan.

Rise in mass shooting tips poses problems

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — It had all the makings of a massacre: Six guns, including a Colt AR-15 rifle, about 1,000 rounds of ammunition, a bulletproof vest, and an angry Southern California man who threatened to kill his co-workers at a hotel and its guests.

But a concerned colleague intervened, alerting authorities who arrested Rodolfo Montoya, 37, a cook at the Long Beach Marriott hotel, the next day and discovered the arsenal where he lived in a rundown motor home parked near industrial buildings.

In the weeks since three high-profile shootings in three states took the lives of more than two dozen people in just one week in August, law enforcement authorities nationwide reported a spike in tips — from concerned relatives, friends and co-workers — about people who appear bent on carrying out the next mass shooting.

Some of those would-be shooters sent text messages to friends or posted on social media that they hoped to one-up previous mass shootings by killing more people.

Law enforcement authorities and experts say the reasons for

the increase in tips and heightened awareness of thwarted mass shootings vary.

In some cases, it's the so-called "contagion effect" in which intense media coverage of mass shootings leads to more people seeking to become copy-cat killers. In other cases, it's a reflection of the general public being more aware of warning signs when a friend or relative or co-worker is in an emotional crisis — and more willing to tip off police.

On average, the Federal Bureau of Investigation receives about 22,000 tips about potential threats of violence weekly.

Following the high-profile shootings during the first week of August in Gilroy, Calif.; El Paso, Texas; and Dayton, Ohio that killed 34 people and wounded nearly 70, the volume of calls to federal authorities increased by about 15,000 each week.

Mass shootings tend to plant the idea of carrying out a rampage or at least encourage the idea in potential mass shooters, each seeking notoriety or striving to "out-do" others with higher death tolls, said sociologist James Densley, a criminal justice professor at Metropolitan State University in St. Paul,

Minn., who studies mass shootings and the people who perpetrate them.

And the general public, in turn, becomes more aware of the possibility of mass shootings, heightening people's willingness to speak out if a friend, relative or co-worker appears to be in the midst of a crisis and plotting carnage, Densley said. In addition, the media focuses not only on the actual shootings but also on those that are foiled.

But identifying and predicting who the next shooter will be is challenging for authorities, he said.

The reason? Mass shootings remain rare events and there's no one basic profile for the gunmen. The demographics of school shooters and their motivations are vastly different from someone who carries out carnage in a place of worship. The same holds true for those who carry out workplace shootings.

"When it comes to thinking about the profile of a mass shooter what our research is starting to uncover is there's not really one profile of a mass shooter," Densley said.

But the one common thread is that there are usually warn-

ing signs in the days and weeks leading up to the shootings, with many shooters taking to social media to vent outrage at whatever is troubling them.

Greg Shaffer, a retired FBI agent who now is a private security consultant specializing in active shooters and terrorism, said in an interview that the challenge for law enforcement is the juggling act of trying to balance the public's safety while not trampling on Americans' constitutional rights. For example, at what point does a troubling social media post constitute an illegal threat versus simple venting that's protected by the First Amendment?

"The real rub is where do you draw the line between First, Second and Fourth Amendment rights?" he said. "We allow hate speech. It's freedom of speech. Where do you decide that it's no longer posturing and now it's a threat? ... At what point do you crash his pad and take away his guns? You can't be the thought police."

Shaffer added: "That's the hard part in law enforcement. You don't want to trample those ... rights because it's vital to our institution."

Justices' DC sniper case looks at teen murderers

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Lee Boyd Malvo, who terrorized the Washington region in 2002 as one-half of a sniper team, is at the center of a case the Supreme Court will hear this fall. But the justices' eventual ruling probably will mean less for him than for a dozen other inmates who, like Malvo, now 34, were sentenced to life without parole for murders they committed as teens.

At issue for the Supreme Court is whether Malvo should be resentenced in Virginia in light of Supreme Court rulings restricting life-without-parole sentences for crimes committed by juveniles. But the case could also be an opportunity for the Supreme Court, which has recently become more conservative, to put the brakes on what has been a gradual move toward more leniency

for juvenile offenders.

Regardless of the case's outcome, Malvo isn't leaving prison anytime soon. He's serving four life-without-parole sentences in Virginia. He was sentenced to another six life-without-parole terms for shootings in Maryland. But an appeals court ruled last year that Malvo should be resentenced in Virginia, the decision the Supreme Court will review.

The appeals court explained that after Malvo was sentenced, the Supreme Court issued a series of decisions affecting juvenile killers, decisions that required Malvo to be resentenced.

"The reality is that other people have more at stake in this case than he does," said Jody Kent Lavy, the executive director of the Washington-based Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth, which has filed a

Supreme Court brief supporting Malvo.

Lavy says a dozen other Virginia inmates will be affected by Malvo's case. They include Donte Jones, who was 17 when he fatally shot a convenience store employee during a robbery; Holly Landry, who was 16 when she participated in a robbery in which a man died after being beaten with a hammer, and Jason Clem, who was 16 when he fatally stabbed his boss at the restaurant where he worked as a dishwasher.

Youth advocates have generally been pleased with the direction of the Supreme Court on juvenile sentencing in recent years.

The court has recognized that minors should be treated differently from adults, in part because of their lack of maturity and greater ability to change.

Trump suggests he mentioned Biden during call with Ukraine

The Washington Post

President Donald Trump suggested Sunday that he mentioned former Vice President Joe Biden and his son, Hunter Biden, in a phone call with the leader of Ukraine, amid swirling questions about whether Trump sought to use his influence to seek re-election help from a foreign country.

In an exchange with reporters outside the White House before departing for events in Texas and Ohio, Trump was asked about his July 25 conversation with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. The Washington Post reported last week that Trump pressured Zelensky to investigate a company with ties to Hunter Biden, and the call between Trump

and Zelensky is the subject of an extraordinary whistleblower complaint.

“The conversation I had was largely congratulatory, was largely corruption, all of the corruption taking place was largely the fact that we don’t want our people, like Vice President Biden and his son, creating to the corruption already in the Ukraine,” Trump told reporters. “And Ukraine, Ukraine’s got a lot of problems.”

Trump has denied that he has done anything untoward in his conversations with world leaders and had previously declined to say whether he spoke with Zelensky about Biden.

The president’s apparent confirmation that he mentioned Biden on the call came as his

allies were scrambling to deny that he did so.

Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, said there is “no direct evidence” that Trump asked Zelensky to investigate Biden or his family, saying the allegation is “based on hearsay reports.”

Trump administration officials and Republican lawmakers defended the president and sought to place the focus on Biden in appearances on the Sunday morning news shows.

In his “Meet the Press” interview, Mnuchin argued that rather than focusing on “confidential discussions” between two world leaders, “I really think that the real issue here is not what the president said but what indeed did Biden’s son do.”

Greek police make arrest in 1985 plane hijacking

Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Greek police said Saturday they arrested a suspect in the 1985 hijacking of a flight from Athens that became a multi-day ordeal and included the slaying of an American.

Police said a 65-year-old suspect in the hijacking was arrested Thursday on the island of Mykonos in response to a warrant from Germany.

Lt. Col. Theodoros Chronopoulos, a police spokesman, told The Associated Press that the hijacking case involved TWA Flight 847.

The flight was commandeered by hijackers shortly after taking off from Athens on June 14, 1985. It originated in Cairo and had San Diego set as a final destination, with stops scheduled in Athens, Rome, Boston and Los Angeles.

The hijackers shot and killed U.S. Navy diver Robert Stethem, 23, after beating him unconscious. They released the other 146 passengers and crew members on the plane during an ordeal that included stops in Beirut and Algiers. The last hostage was freed after 17 days.

The suspect was in custody Saturday on the Greek island of Syros but was set to be transferred to the Korydallos high security prison in Athens, a police spokeswoman told the AP. The spokeswoman spoke on condition of anonymity because the case was ongoing.

Police refused to release the suspect’s name.

Several Greek media outlets identified the detainee as Mohammed Ali Hammadi, who was arrested in Frankfurt in 1987 and convicted in Germany for the plane hijacking and Stethem’s slaying. Hammadi, an alleged Hezbollah member, was sentenced to life in prison but was paroled in 2005 and returned to Lebanon.

Los Cabos spared; Lorena heads up coast

Associated Press

CABO SAN LUCAS, Mexico — Hurricane Lorena spared the resort-studded twin cities of Los Cabos a direct hit and was reduced to a tropical storm Saturday as it headed up the east coast of Mexico’s Baja California Peninsula.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center downgraded Lorena to a tropical storm Saturday afternoon, saying it had maximum sustained winds of 50 mph, and its center was about 50 miles north-northeast of Loreto, Mexico. It was heading to the north at 12 mph on a forecast track parallel to the coast, through the Sea of Cortez.

The core of Lorena “did not survive the high terrain of the southern Baja California peninsula,” the center said.

The Mexican government has discontinued the tropical storm warning for the Baja peninsula and the hurricane watch for portions of mainland Mexico.

The storm brought intense rain and strong waves to Los Cabos, but there was minimal damage. Clouds began to clear Friday evening. Electric service was spotty in some communities.

For days, forecasts had predicted likely landfall in or a near miss with Los Cabos, but the storm took a path well east of the glitzy resort area.

On Friday, residents and tourists in Cabo San Lucas and San Jose del Cabo hunkered down in

homes, shelters and hotels amid extreme weather warnings.

Police and soldiers went through low-lying, low-income neighborhoods in Los Cabos urging people to evacuate. Locals who have been through past hurricanes pulled boats from the water and boarded up windows and doors.

Authorities in Los Cabos said 787 people had taken refuge at 18 storm shelters. Officials had closed the port and suspended school classes for Friday.

Lorena came onshore a day earlier as a hurricane in the western Mexican state of Colima. It flooded streets, washed out roads and touched off minor slides in 10 municipalities. Dozens of trees were downed, and power was knocked out in some areas.

Colima state Gov. Jose Ignacio Peralta said more than 7,400 acres of crops such as bananas and papayas were damaged statewide, but there were no deaths or significant damage to infrastructure.

On Saturday afternoon, Lorena’s tropical force winds extended outward up to 10 miles to the north and east of its center. Baja California Sur Gov. Carlos Mendoza urged residents to still exercise caution.

Tropical Storm Mario was weakening as it hovered several hundred miles south of the southern tip of the Baja Peninsula. Mario was expected to disperse by Monday.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

City to pay 2016 GOP protester \$50K

OH CLEVELAND — An attorney for a protester arrested during the 2016 Republican National Convention says Cleveland will pay his client \$50,000 to settle a federal civil rights lawsuit.

Attorney Subodh Chandra said Richard Newburger in July 2016 joined fellow protesters preparing to burn an American flag when Newburger and others were assaulted by police and sprayed with fire retardant.

The flag burning was led by Gregory Lee Johnson, whose arrest at the 1984 Republican National Convention in Dallas led to a U.S. Supreme Court decision invalidating state flag-burning laws.

Misdemeanor charges filed against Newburger, of Chicago, and Johnson, of San Francisco, were eventually dismissed.

History buff finds shipwrecks from 1878

MI DETROIT — A diver and maritime history buff found two schooners that collided and sank into the cold depths of northern Lake Michigan more than 140 years ago.

Bernie Hellstrom, of Boyne City, said he was looking for shipwrecks about 10 years ago when a depth sounder on his boat noted a large obstruction about 200 feet down on the lake bottom near Beaver Island.

Hellstrom said he returned to the area in June with a custom-made camera system and discovered the Peshtigo and St. Andrews about 10 feet apart. The ships collided in 1878, but it initially was believed they sank in the Straits of Mackinac in Lake Huron.

Bounce house sparks fire, power outages

UT DRAPER — A bounce house in Utah started a fire that left thousands of residents without power after strong winds lifted the inflatable into nearby power lines.

The Drape Fire Department said nobody was injured and that crews responded to the scene and put out the fire while closing nearby traffic routes because of downed power lines.

Authorities said a neighborhood business was setting up the bounce house, a pumpkin patch and corn maze for a Halloween event in Draper south of Salt Lake City.

Zoo teams with school for master's program

FL JACKSONVILLE — The Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens and Miami University are teaming up with a new master's degree program.

The Florida Times-Union reported the program will offer degrees in teaching biological sciences or biology which combines Miami University coursework with field study on the zoo's grounds and in the Jacksonville area.

The courses will be taught by instructors at the Oxford, Ohio, university with experiential learning led by zoo experts.

Woman stops for gas, finds stranger in trunk

TN MILLERSVILLE — Authorities said a Kentucky woman who stopped for gas while driving through Tennessee noticed her trunk wasn't closed all the way — and then found a stranger inside it.

Police in Millersville said the stowaway fled on foot when the driver said she was calling

police.

The driver said the woman seemed injured, so officers initially were concerned that she might have been escaping from an assault or kidnapping in Kentucky.

They ruled that out after officers found the woman and reviewed surveillance video. Spokesman Ronnie Ward, with the police in Bowling Green, Ky., said detectives learned the woman had been injured while running through some woods and willingly climbed into the woman's trunk.

Hospital treats baby squirrels tied by tails

CT BERLIN — A Connecticut animal hospital said it is treating four baby squirrels found tied together by their tails in a bizarre act of animal abuse.

The Kensington Bird and Animal Hospital in Berlin said in a Facebook post that the animals are recovering, but their tails are broken and may need to be amputated.

The hospital said the animals were "tangled, braided and purposefully tied together" with a man-made object. It said the animals were found on train tracks, another possible indicator of animal cruelty.

Museum gets \$216K to digitize collection

LA NEW ORLEANS — A university museum in New Orleans received more than \$216,000 to help inventory and digitize its collections.

Director Monica Ramirez-Montagut said the grant will help Newcomb Art Museum of Tulane University get unique Southern cultural assets online.

The grant is among 130 announced by The Institute of

Museum and Library Services. They add up to \$21.7 million. The institute said museums are providing \$27.6 million in non-federal matching funds.

Outlaw's items sell for nearly \$186K

TX DALLAS — Several personal items related to 1930s Texas outlaw Clyde Barrow have sold at a Boston auction for nearly \$186,000.

RR Auction officials said the Bulova watch that Barrow wore when he and Bonnie Parker were killed in 1934 sold Saturday for \$112,500. Parker and Barrow were fatally shot by officers in Louisiana.

Auction house executive vice president Bobby Livingston said a sawed-off shotgun that was in the possession of the Barrow gang in 1933 sold for \$68,750. The weapon was confiscated after a shootout in Joplin, Mo., left two lawmen dead.

Zoo's beloved white tiger dies from cancer

MA BOSTON — A Boston zoo's 14-year-old white tiger has died after a brief battle with cancer.

The Franklin Park Zoo says its tiger, Luther, was recently diagnosed with an "undifferentiated round cell tumor" and stopped responding to medication. The zoo decided to euthanize him as Luther's health began to decline.

Luther moved to the Franklin Park Zoo with a Bengal mix named Anala in 2006. At the time it had been 30 years since the zoo had exhibited a tiger.

Both big cats had been confiscated as young cubs from a wildlife sanctuary by federal wildlife agents.

Anala still lives at the zoo.

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STARS AND STRIPES®

Top 25 college football roundup

No. 14 Wisconsin trounces No. 11 Michigan

Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — Jonathan Taylor ran for 203 yards and two touchdowns, Jack Coan added a career-high two rushing touchdowns and No. 13 Wisconsin made it look easy in a 35-14 victory over No. 11 Michigan on Saturday.

Taylor had 143 yards and both scores in the first quarter, including a 72-yarder. He missed the second quarter due to cramps, but the 2018 Doak Walker Award winner returned in the third to finish with 23 carries to help the Badgers (3-0, 1-0 Big Ten) avenge a 38-13 loss to the Wolverines last season in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Michigan's struggles to hold on to the ball continued as the Wolverines suffered another embarrassing loss under coach Jim Harbaugh. Michigan is 1-6 on the road against ranked opponents under Harbaugh, who took over the program in 2015.

Coan, in only his seventh start, had a 1-yard touchdown run and a 25-yarder that made it 28-0 just before the half. Coan also passed for 128 yards.

Wisconsin has outscored South Florida, Central Michigan and now Michigan by a combined score of 145-14.

No. 1 Clemson 52, Charlotte 10: Trevor Lawrence

threw two first-half touchdown passes and the host Tigers won their 19th straight with an overwhelming 52-10 victory against the 49ers on Saturday night.

No. 2 Alabama 49, Southern Miss 7: Tua Tagovailoa passed for 293 yards and five touchdowns in three quarters and the Crimson Tide rolled past the visiting Golden Eagles.

No. 4 LSU 66, Vanderbilt 38: Joe Burrow tossed four of his school-record six touchdown passes to Ja'Marr Chase and threw for 398 yards to lead the visiting Tigers.

No. 6 Ohio State 76, Miami (Ohio) 5: Justin Fields threw for four touchdowns and rushed for two more scores in the second quarter as the Buckeyes cruised past the visiting RedHawks.

No. 8 Auburn 28, No. 17 Texas A&M 20: Bo Nix threw a touchdown pass and Ja'Tarvious Whitlow ran for a score as the Tigers built a big lead and withstood a late charge from the host Aggies.

No. 9 Florida 34, Tennessee 3: Kyle Trask threw for 293 yards and two touchdowns in his first start in nearly seven years and the host Gators extended their dominance in a series that used to be the most prominent in the Southeastern Conference's Eastern Division.

No. 12 Texas 36, Oklahoma State 30: Sam Ehlinger passed for four touchdowns and the Longhorns ended four years of frustration against the visiting Cowboys.

Pittsburgh 35, No. 15 UCF 34: Wide receiver Aaron Matthews hit QB Kenny Pickett on a 3-yard, fourth-down touchdown pass with 56 seconds left and the host Panthers ended the Knights' 25-game regular-season win streak.

No. 16 Oregon 21, Stanford 6: Justin Herbert threw two of his three touchdown passes to Jacob Breeland and the visiting Ducks won their Pac-12 opener for the first time since 2014.

UCLA 67, No. 19 Washington State 63: Dorian Thompson-Robinson threw a 15-yard touchdown pass to Demetric Felton with 1:07 left in the game as the Bruins overcame a 32-point second-half deficit and a record nine TD passes by the Cougars' Anthony Gordon.

No. 21 Virginia 28, Old Dominion 17: Zane Zandier returned an interception 22 yards for a touchdown, part of a dominant defensive second half, as the host Cavaliers rallied past the Monarchs to remain undefeated.

No. 22 Washington 45, BYU 19: Jacob Eason threw for 290

yards and three touchdowns and the visiting Huskies scored two touchdowns off three Cougars turnovers to coast to a victory.

No. 23 California 28, Mississippi 20: At Oxford, Miss., Chase Garbers threw for four touchdowns, but the Bears needed a game-saving tackle at the 1-yard line from linebacker Evan Weaver on the game's final play.

Colorado 34, No. 24 Arizona State 31: Steven Montez threw for 337 yards and had three touchdown passes to Tony Brown, lifting the visiting Buffaloes past the Sun Devils.

SMU 41, No. 25 TCU 38: At Fort Worth, Texas, Shane Buechele threw for 288 yards with two touchdowns and ran for another score as the Mustangs ended a seven-game losing streak in the rivalry and improved to 4-0 for the first time since 1984.

The Mustangs went ahead to stay after jumping ahead 15-0 in less than 10 minutes. Their last 4-0 start came when TCU and SMU were Southwest Conference rivals, and not long before crippling sanctions led to the NCAA's so-called death penalty when the Mustangs didn't even field a team in 1987 and 1988.

Sloppy at first, Army runs past Morgan State

Associated Press

WEST POINT, N.Y. — Not even a 31-point victory was enough to put a smile on Army coach Jeff Monken's face.

Army rushed for six touchdowns and a season-high 403 yards on Saturday, but had to overcome some sloppy play that included two lost fumbles and seven penalties to beat struggling Morgan State 52-21.

The Bears, who compete in the Championship Subdivision, haven't won a nonconference road game since a 28-3 win

over Bowie State five years ago, but they led the Black Knights 14-7 early in the game before fading.

"I didn't think that was up to our standards," Monken said. "That's as much to do with me as any individual player. Good enough to win the game, not good enough against everyone else we play. We've got to do better."

Artice Hobbs IV scored twice and Connor Slomka rushed for a career-high 110 yards and another score to pace the Army ground game. But Morgan State

(0-3), which started the season with two bad road losses — 46-3 to Bowling Green and 63-12 to FCS power James Madison — under new coach Tyrone Wheatley, stunned Army with two straight scores in the first quarter after the Black Knights had gained a 7-0 lead on a 9-yard run by Hobbs.

Army (3-1) extended its winning streak to 15 straight at home and boosted its record against Morgan State to 3-0, all at Michie Stadium. Though the Black Knights intercepted three passes and recovered a

fumble, the defense allowed 308 yards, just 32 yards fewer than then-No. 7 Michigan had in a double-overtime victory over Army two weeks ago.

"We came out in the first half and second half with low energy, not really focused on the task at hand. Couldn't tell you the reason for it," Army defensive back Elijah Riley said. "We shouldn't come out any game with low energy. Going forward, we're just going to have to lock it in, not allow another game like this to take place."

No. 3 Georgia survives No. 7 Notre Dame

Associated Press

ATHENS, Ga. — On a raucous Saturday night Between the Hedges, No. 3 Georgia held on for a gutsy win that might have ramifications all the way to the College Football Playoff.

For No. 7 Notre Dame, it was another big-game loss but a performance that should bring more respect.

Jake Fromm threw a 15-yard touchdown pass to Lawrence Cager early in the fourth quarter and the Bulldogs survived for a 23-17 victory that was much tougher than many expected.

“That’s what college football is all about, man,” Georgia coach Kirby Smart said. “I hate that somebody had to lose that game. I’ve got a lot of respect for the way they played, and all the negative things they’ve heard, and to come out and play the way they did. They played really physical as a team, and so did we. We persevered.”

The Bulldogs (4-0) trailed 10-7 at half-time but turned the momentum when red-shirt freshman Divaad Wilson snatched away a deflected pass by Ian Book for an interception deep in Notre Dame territory.

The Fromm-to-Cager combination helped push Georgia to a 23-10 lead before the Fighting Irish (2-1) made a game of it at the end.

Book’s 4-yard touchdown pass to Chase Claypool cut the deficit with 3:12 remaining, the Notre Dame defense held, and Book got the ball back at his own 48 after a poor punt with just under 2 minutes to go.

The Irish got as far as the Georgia 38, but no further. It ended with Book zig-zagging on a desperate scramble before hurling up a long pass that fell incomplete, denying Notre Dame the signature win over a top opponent it so desperately needs in its first visit ever to Sanford Stadium.

“This stings a little bit,” defensive lineman Khalid Kareem said. “But our morale is still high. The season’s not over.”

With Georgia up 13-10 after a pair of field goals by Rodrigo Blankenship, Cager hauled in a 36-yard pass along the sideline to push the Bulldogs into the red zone. Then, on third-and-7 from the 15, Notre Dame brought a blitz and Fromm coolly lofted one toward Cager along the left side of the end zone.

A half-foot taller than cornerback Troy Pride Jr., Cager, a 6-foot-5 graduate transfer, leaped high to make the catch and tapped down his right foot before tumbling out of bounds to put Georgia in command, 20-10 with 13:19 remaining.

Desperate to cut into the deficit, Notre Dame called a flea-flicker play. But when Book was pressured out of the pocket and let go of a pass on the run, J.R. Reed dove in front of the intended receiver to make a brilliant interception as he slid into the Irish bench.

Reed sprinted all the way across the field, hopped atop the Georgia bench and bounced for the record crowd of more than 93,000 while wearing shiny, Road Warrior-style shoulder pads that go to the latest Bulldog defender to get a turnover.

It led to Blankenship’s third field goal.

In a most efficient performance, Fromm was 20 of 26 for 187 yards. Cager was his favorite target, hauling in five passes for 82 yards.

D’Andre Swift led Georgia on the ground with 98 yards and a touchdown, including a dazzling play when he hurdled over a would-be tackler who went at his legs.

“We just kept hitting them, hitting them and hitting them, and it finally just started wearing on them,” Fromm said. “We started running the ball more and started making plays throwing the ball.”

A two-touchdown underdog, Notre Dame took advantage of a huge turnover by Georgia punt returner Tyler Simmons to grab the lead. Attempting to make a fair catch, he fumbled the ball away and Claypool recovered for the Irish at the Georgia 8 to set up Book’s 1-yard touchdown pass to Cole Kmet on fourth down.

Book appeared to be trying to hit Tony Jones Jr. in the back of the end zone, but Kmet reached up with one hand to pull it down.

Swift scored on a 3-yard run to cap a 75-yard drive, but Jonathan Doerer booted a 27-yard field goal on the final play of the first half.

Book finished 29-for-47 for 275 yards, giving Notre Dame a chance right to the end even though the Irish were outgained 152-46 in rushing yards.

“I left the field thinking we beat ourselves,” Claypool said.

Truex, bumped off lead, rallies to win Richmond

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — Martin Truex Jr. seemed to have a “pinch me” moment as he climbed from his car in victory lane.

Nudged off the lead with 87 laps to go, Truex rallied Saturday night, ultimately passing Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Kyle Busch with 25 laps to go and winning his second consecutive NASCAR Cup Series race. That it came in the series’ playoffs, it seemed, made it all the more surreal.

“To spin and win is pretty incredible. I’ve never done anything like that in my life,” Truex said. “When things are rolling, they just are.”

The victory completed a redemptive finish for Truex, the championship leader coming into the race. The bump from Ricky Stenhouse Jr., who was running on fresher tires, seemed inadvertent, and came in Turn 4, but Truex was still running third when the caution flew.

He gradually reeled in his teammate, got a nudge from Busch as he passed and pulled away.

“I think any time you’re winning at this level, there’s a little bit of a pinch-me feeling,” Truex said. “Look, this is really, really difficult. These races are hard to win. ... You’ve got to have some things go your ways

sometimes and we’ve certainly had that the last two weeks.”

The victory was his series-high sixth of the season and the 15th in 28 races for the Gibbs cars. The team initially finished in the top four spots, a first for JGR, with Busch hanging on for second, followed by teammates Denny Hamlin and Erik Jones. Jones, however, was later disqualified when his Toyota failed post-race inspection for a rear wheel alignment issue, dropping him to 38th place and severely damaging his chances of advancing to the second playoff stage.

“We led a lot of laps. We were up front a lot. But when I was out front, he could keep the

closest distance to me,” Busch said. “That kind of worried me for a finish like that in the long run.”

Pole-sitter Brad Keselowski moved up to fourth with Jones’ disqualification, and every driver that finished behind him moved up one spot on the final grid, and in the two in-race stages, where Jones had been ninth in the first stage and fourth in the second.

“We just weren’t quite as fast as the Gibbs cars,” especially on long green-flag runs, Keselowski said.

Truex swept the season at Richmond, where his victory in April was his first in 81 career starts on a short track.

Cards rally past Cubs for 4th straight win

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Yadier Molina trotted around the bases while his teammates celebrated in the dugout. Paul DeJong lost his voice because he was screaming so much.

It was one wild party for the St. Louis Cardinals — again.

Molina and DeJong homered on Craig Kimbrel's first two pitches in the ninth inning, and the Cardinals handed the reeling Chicago Cubs their fifth straight loss with a 9-8 victory

on Saturday.

"We don't give up," Molina said. "Today was a perfect example, we're never going to give up."

Marcell Ozuna also connected as the NL Central-leading Cardinals (88-67) won for the fifth time in six games. Dexter Fowler had two hits and two RBIs, and Paul Goldschmidt also drove in two runs.

Chicago (82-73) used pinch-hit homers by Ian Happ and Tony Kemp and a solo drive by rookie Nico Hoerner to carry an

8-7 lead into the ninth. It looked as if it was on its way to stopping a costly slide that pushed it out of playoff position.

But Kimbrel (0-4) was hit hard again in his first appearance since he gave up Matt Carpenter's 10th-inning homer in the Cubs' 5-4 loss Thursday night. Then Milwaukee closed out a 10-1 victory over Pittsburgh to increase its advantage over Chicago for the second NL wild card to three games.

"It's really a difficult loss based on all the good things we

did today," Cubs manager Joe Maddon said.

Molina jumped on Kimbrel's elevated fastball for his ninth homer, touching off a rollicking celebration on the Cardinals' side of the field. Kimbrel looked stunned as the ball soared into the bleachers in left-center.

DeJong then belted an even deeper drive for his 28th homer, completing the Cardinals' seventh set of back-to-back shots this year.

MLB roundup

Nationals' 6-run 10th takes down Marlins

Associated Press

MIAMI — Brian Dozier hit a go-ahead RBI single during Washington's six-run 10th inning in a 10-4 win at Miami.

Dozier's single to left off Miami reliever Jose Urena (4-10) scored Ryan Zimmerman from third. Zimmerman had led off the inning with a single and advanced to third on a single by Victor Robles.

The Nationals are atop the NL wild-card race, one game ahead of Milwaukee, which has a three-game lead for the second wild card.

Washington got a pinch-hit, bases-clearing double from Kurt Suzuki in the 10th inning. Adam Eaton had an RBI single and Juan Soto walked with the bases loaded.

Wander Suero (6-8) pitched a scoreless ninth for the win and Tanner Rainey got the final three outs.

Nationals' starter Stephen Strasburg was lifted with a 2-0 lead after seven innings and 109 pitches. Strasburg allowed three hits, struck out six, walked three and hit a batter.

Reds 3, Mets 2: Pinch-hitter Christian Colon's two-out single off Seth Lugo broke an eighth-inning tie, lifting host Cincinnati and dealing New York a critical defeat in the NL wild card race.

The Mets (80-74) went 0-for-6 with runners in scoring position and dropped four games back of Milwaukee for the second wild card with eight games left.

Angels 8, Astros 4: Houston remained just shy of its third straight AL West title, wasting a chance to clinch when Wade Miley was hit hard in a loss to visiting Los Angeles that ended a six-game winning streak.

The Astros (101-54) need just one more win to ensure first place. They also would clinch with a loss by second-place Oakland, but the A's took a quick 9-0 lead over Texas in a late game.

Mariners 7, Orioles 6 (13): Mallex Smith scored from second base in the 13th inning after Tim Lopes beat out an infield grounder, and Seattle won at Baltimore.

Yankees 7, Blue Jays 2: Giancarlo Stanton launched his first homer since missing nearly three months to injury, James Paxton won his 10th straight start and host New York beat Toronto.

White Sox 5, Tigers 3: Tim Anderson homered in a three-run fifth inning, and Chicago won at Detroit.

Braves 8, Giants 1: Max Fried strengthened his case for a spot in the postseason rota-

tion by throwing 5¹/₃ scoreless innings, Francisco Cervelli and Adam Duvall hit two-run homers and host Atlanta beat San Francisco.

At 96-60, the Braves will finish with their most wins since 2013.

Rays 5, Red Sox 4 (11): Nate Lowe hit a two-run homer in the 11th inning, and host Tampa Bay beat Boston to move one game ahead of Cleveland for the second AL wild card.

The Rays won their third straight game, all in 11 innings.

Brewers 10, Pirates 1: Rookies Keston Hiura and Trent Grisham each hit two-run homers and host Milwaukee beat Pittsburgh to increase its edge for the second NL wild-card spot.

The Brewers lead Chicago by three games in the wild-card race after the Cubs lost to St. Louis. Milwaukee remained one game behind Washington for the top wild-card slot.

Phillies 9, Indians 4: Bryce Harper connected for a three-run homer and Philadelphia avoided sliding deeper in the NL wild-card standings with a win at Cleveland.

Brad Miller homered twice as the Phillies stayed within five games of Milwaukee for the second wild-card spot.

Royals 12, Twins 5: Closer Taylor Rogers got tagged during a seven-run ninth inning and host Minnesota missed a chance to add to its AL Central lead in a loss to Kansas City.

The Twins remained four games ahead of Cleveland, which lost at home to Philadelphia.

Diamondbacks 4, Padres 2: Rod Barajas lost his San Diego debut as interim manager as former Padres player Abraham Almonte had three hits and scored three runs for visiting Arizona.

Barajas was promoted from bench coach earlier in the day to replace Andy Green, who was fired because of San Diego's second-half slide. The Padres were 45-45 at the All-Star break but have skidded to 69-86.

Rockies 4, Dodgers 2: Ryan McMahon and Josh Fuentes hit solo homers, and Colorado snapped a 12-game skid at Dodger Stadium.

It was the Rockies' first win in eight games in Los Angeles this season, and their first there since June 30, 2018.

Athletics 12, Rangers 3: Marcus Semien hit his 32nd home run and reached base six times, and host Oakland routed Texas to maintain its two-game lead in the AL wild card race.