

The Florida Times-Union

★
Wednesday
AUGUST 23, 2017
\$2

FOR JUMBO SHRIMP WHO CAN'T HAVE THE DREAM: A PLAN B

Sports, C-1



JAGS' QB DILEMMA

Sports, C-1



NO EXCUSES: FIND THE BEST FREE ONLINE WORKOUTS

Life, E-1

A 'Trump Doctrine'? Clues in his Afghanistan plan

'We are not nation-building. We are killing terrorists.'

By Josh Lederman
Associated Press

WASHINGTON | Never tip your hand to the enemy. No timelines for military operations. No free pass for a neighbor who tolerates extremists or enables U.S. foes.

In President Donald Trump's new Afghanistan strategy, elements of a broader approach to Amer-

ica's most pressing national security concerns begin to emerge, consistent with his efforts in Iraq, Syria and elsewhere. Though details are limited, the plan draws on organizing principles that are also woven throughout his plans for defeating the Islamic State group and containing the threats posed by North Korea and Iran.

Trump's advisers say his

Afghan strategy reflects a consistent world view, both in terms of America's overseas objectives and the tactics to achieve them. But it's too soon to say whether he is being driven by a well-formed doctrine or merely coining catchphrases on the fly.

"We are not nation-building again. We are killing terrorists," Trump said in his Monday night

speech. He was striving to differentiate his plan from failed approaches of the past.

As a candidate and then as president, Trump has eluded those who have tried to identify core beliefs that can reliably predict how he'll approach any given issue. Critics have painted him as a foreign policy novice, focused only on somehow showing he's winning.

Trump ran on a nationalist pledge to put "America

First." But he explained this week that things look different from the Oval Office. Conceding he was overriding an initial instinct to withdraw from Afghanistan, he peppered his speech with vows to empower commanders and to squeeze Pakistan for harboring the Taliban.

While Trump has cast his approach as a fundamental shift from other presidents, he's borrowed more from them than he's inclined to admit.

George W. Bush, too, sought to pressure Pakistan to crack down on the Taliban, even as he focused far more on an idea Trump is explicitly rejecting: promoting democracy around the world.

And Trump's limited approach owes something to Barack Obama, who in his second term scaled back U.S. military involvement in Afghanistan and settled on a counterterrorism-focused

TRUMP continues on A-4

DEBATE ON MONUMENTS BEGINS

Council members hear impassioned comments on how to deal with Confederate memorials

By Christopher Hong
christopher.hong@jacksonville.com

A cultural clash unfolded Tuesday at City Hall when more than 100 people voiced their opinions about a proposal to remove Confederate monuments from public property.

The speakers showed up in reaction to Council President Anna Lopez Brosche's announcement last week that she would introduce a plan to move all of the city's Confederate monuments, markers and memorials into museums or other settings.

Brosche hasn't introduced a plan yet, and the issue wasn't up for discussion among the council on Tuesday. Still, the hours of public comment served as an official kick-off to the public debate over what Jacksonville should do with its statues and monuments honoring the Confederacy.

Most of the arguments have been made countless times in the generational debate over the appropriateness of memorializing, without context, the Confederacy's fight to preserve slavery.

Some said relocating the monuments were part of a leftist move to destroy southern heritage and erase history. Others said the monuments were demeaning symbols that celebrated white supremacy.

"I've heard a lot of people say this and that about what statues represent. They're traitors. They committed treason against the USA. They should be taken down, melted and cut up," said S.C. Howard in support of moving the statues.

"I want to remind us that history disappears if we don't have reminders. I don't agree with everything on the statue, but we should remember our

DEBATE continues on A-4



A large crowd turns out for Tuesday evening's City Council meeting, many waiting for public comments on the debate over the removal of Confederate monuments. (Bob Self/Florida Times-Union)

Council nixes proposal to extend term limits

By Christopher Hong
christopher.hong@jacksonville.com

The Jacksonville City Council shot down a proposal to let voters extend term limits for local officials.

In a 6 to 11 vote, the City Council decided not to put a referendum on the August 2018 ballot to allow council members, the sheriff, and Duval County School Board members and constitutional officers to serve three consecutive four-year terms.

The city's eight-year limit

for local officials was approved in a landslide victory in a 1991 referendum. Its success was driven by a widespread belief that council members, free to serve as many terms as they were elected, had become too powerful to be driven out of office by voters.

Councilman Tommy Hazouri said that decision should be respected and the effort to extend term limits was "self-serving" since it derived from the council, not from the public.

"It is self-serving. It's embarrassing for us," Hazouri said.

Councilman Matt Schellenberg, who proposed extending the term limits, has long argued term limits force experienced officials out of office too soon.

A local task force reached a similar conclusion in 2015. In a report that included a number of recommendations to improve Jacksonville's government, the task force concluded the city "suffers a significant loss of continuity,

momentum and institutional knowledge" every four years because of significant turnover of elected officials.

Councilman Reginald Brown, who voted for the referendum, said the council needed to consider the task force's recommendation and let voters make the decision. "Let the taxpayers decide how long you stay," Brown said.

Other council members who voted for the referen-

LIMITS continues on A-4

4 collisions this year, 2 deadly, raise questions about the Navy

Admiral says incidents are unique but cannot be viewed 'in isolation'

By Katy Daigle
Associated Press

BANGKOK | One major U.S. Navy collision may be an accident. Twice in two months could be a coincidence. Or it could point to a bigger failing in how the U.S. navigates its warships around the world.

It is unclear how the

MORE INSIDE

Search and rescue: Remains of some missing sailors have been found on board the USS John S. McCain. **A-3**

collision occurred early Monday between the USS John S. McCain and a Liberian-flagged oil tanker in a crowded shipping lane off Singapore, leaving 10



Commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet Scott Swift answers questions during a news conference at Singapore's Changi naval base Tuesday in Singapore. (AP Photo/Wong Maye-E)

American sailors missing. Some have been found in a flooded compartment.

The broken destroyer, now docked in Singapore while investigators look into the cause of the

crash, is the fourth Navy vessel involved in an accident this year in the Pacific. No one was hurt in the first two incidents, but seven Navy sailors were killed in June in a collision

between the USS Fitzgerald and a container ship off the coast of Japan.

"While each of these four incidents is unique, they cannot be viewed in isolation," said Adm. Scott Swift, commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Analysts said the two latest accidents are especially sobering, especially at a moment when U.S. warships occasionally patrol the disputed South China Sea to the consternation of Beijing, and President Don-

ald Trump has swapped threats with North Korea's leader.

"It is truly extraordinary, not only that it should happen, and not only that it should happen to the U.S. Navy, but that it should happen repeatedly within weeks in the same geographic area," said John Blaxland, head of the Strategic and Defence Studies Center at the Australian National University in Syd-

COLLISIONS continues on A-4

Weather
Thunderstorm
Forecast on A-2

95 Today's high

75 Thursday morning's low

Thursday morning's low

Follow us on Facebook
facebook.com/FLTimesUnion/

Twitter
@jaxdotcom

Classified D-4 Life E
Comics E-2 Metro B
Crosswords D-6, E-2 Money D
Editorials A-6 Obituaries B-4

COPYRIGHT 2017
NO. 235
152ND YEAR
5 SECTIONS
34 PAGES

6 65486 00100 4

Mother charged with killing autistic daughter

Searches of woman's property turned up human teeth, meat grinder, lye

By Heather Hollingsworth & Margaret Stafford

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, MO. | A Missouri woman was charged Tuesday with killing the autistic teenage daughter she gave up for adoption as a baby, weeks after the girl's remains were found in a burn pit on her remote property and months after the girl moved back from Minnesota, where she was raised.

Rebecca Ruud, 39, is charged with first-degree murder, abuse of a child resulting in death and second-degree felony murder in the killing of her 16-year-old biological daughter, Savannah Leckie. She is also charged with tampering with physical evidence and abandoning a corpse, said Ozark County Prosecutor John Garrabrant. He declined to say whether anyone else would be charged, but Sheriff Darrin Reed said more charges are expected.

Ruud is being held in

the Ozark County jail. A cellphone number listed as hers wasn't working, and the public defender's office didn't immediately reply to a phone message seeking comment.

According to a probable cause statement filed with the charges, Ruud reported a fire on July 18 on the property where she and her now-husband live in Theodosia, a village of about 250 people near Missouri's southern border with Arkansas. She told fire officials she was burned trying to save the girl from the fire, but refused to let them talk to Savannah.

Two days later, Ruud reported that Savannah had gone missing, investigators said. She later gave differing accounts of how she was injured but claimed Savannah ran away because she blamed herself for starting the fire.

Several searches of the property turned up human teeth, a meat grinder, a knife and 26 bottles of



Ruud

lye, which can be used to accelerate the breakdown of body tissue, according to court documents. Human bone fragments were found in a field about 400 yards from the home on Aug. 4. During that search, Ruud and her husband left the farm and got married.

A forensic analysis identified the remains as Savannah's, the sheriff said.

Ruud was arrested at a Greyhound Bus station on Saturday. She had bought a ticket to Kansas City, and her husband, who has not been charged, had a ticket to Memphis, Tennessee. Investigators arrested her because she was known to have contacts in several states and is affiliated with groups involved in living off the grid, according to the probable cause statement.

Ruud told investigators that she put Savannah up for adoption when she was born and that the girl spent most of her life in Minnesota. Affidavits filed in support of search warrants

describe Savannah as having high-functioning autism.

Savannah's adoptive mother, Tamile Leckie-Montague, asked Ruud last November to take the teen because Savannah couldn't get along with her fiancé, Cary Steeves. Ruud agreed and was given power of attorney. After the girl moved to Missouri, she was home-schooled and had "almost no social contacts," according to an affidavit.

Ruud's ex-boyfriend, Buddy Smart, told investigators he had seen her discipline Savannah by forcing her to crawl through a hog pen and making her to bathe in a pond, the affidavit states. Ruud acknowledged that was true and told investigators that when Savannah cut her arm "in a suicidal gesture," she forced the girl to scrub the wound daily with alcohol and salt as punishment.

Steeves told Minneapolis television station KSTP-TV that Savannah "needed a lot of one-on-one focus and the farm just seemed like a really good place for her at the moment."

DEBATE

Continued from A-1

history. I absolutely disavow any idea of racism," said Joseph Roberts.

Some speakers yelled. The crowd at times erupted into boos and applause — a violation of the council's rules — but were otherwise orderly, and more than a dozen police stood watch over the meeting to ensure that.

Some speakers said any decision short of removing the statues would be an endorsement of slavery and racism.

"Are we the Bold New City of South, or are we

the White Supremacy City of the South?" asked one speaker.

Bruce Moore, a life-long Jacksonville resident dressed in a white shirt and a black vest, conceded that the city has always been a racist town — "The blacks and whites don't get along here, it's been that way forever," he explained. He said those who fought to preserve slavery were ignorant, but that the monuments were memorials to his heritage.

"My grandfathers fought in those wars. Whether it was right or wrong, it didn't matter," he said. "This has got to quit. We don't want to see another

states' war, because it's going to come if this don't quit."

A few speakers called for the council to hold a referendum to let voters decide the memorial's fate. Others who opposed relocating the monuments said race had nothing to do with the issue.

When that argument arose, Councilwoman Katrina Brown noted that the council has received letters containing racist language.

"Why do they bring hatred words in support instead of stating the facts?" Brown said.

Brosche has called for the city to inventory all

of its monuments and markers honoring the Confederacy and said she would introduce a plan to relocate them once that's completed. She hasn't said when the inventory would be completed or her legislation would be introduced.

One of the city's most prominent monuments is the 62-foot Vermont granite monument in Hemming Park, installed in 1898, that sits just feet away from City Hall and is topped by the bronze figure of a Confederate soldier in winter uniform, representing the Jacksonville Light Infantry, a Confederate military company.

LIMITS

Continued from A-1

dum, like Katrina Brown and Al Ferraro, said they didn't necessarily support term limits, but wanted voters to make the choice.

"I was born in 1980, so the year that the vote for this was on the ballot, I wasn't even of age to vote," Brown said.

Councilman John Crescimbeni, who voted against the referendum, made two predictions if the referendum were to go on the ballot: voters would preserve the term

HOW THEY VOTED

Yes: Anna Lopez Brosche, Katrina Brown, Reginald Brown, Garrett Dennis, Al Ferraro, Matt Schellenberg.
No: Danny Becton, Aaron Bowman, Lori Boyer, Doyle Carter, John Crescimbeni, Reginald Gaffney, Bill Gulliford, Tommy Hazouri, Joyce Morgan, Sam Newby, Scott Wilson.

limits and reject the council members who tried to increase them.



U.S. soldiers stand guard near the site where Afghans receive food donations provided by U.S. soldiers in Kabul. Reversing his past calls for a speedy exit, U.S. President Donald Trump recommitted the United States to the 16-year-old war in Afghanistan on Monday night, declaring U.S. troops must "fight to win." (AP Photo/Musadeq Sadeq, File)

TRUMP

Continued from A-1

mission not dissimilar from the new American strategy.

A look at the pillars of Trump's foreign policy:

MIND YOUR BUSINESS

The days of the U.S. military trying to "construct democracies" are over, Trump declared. Instead, he said "principled realism" will guide U.S. decisions

That means there will be none of Bush's "nation-building" — no expansive goal to build up Afghanistan's institutions and ensure the education of girls once the U.S. ultimately withdraws.

Trump's approach in Syria is similar. There, as the Islamic State is ousted from its last major strongholds and a power vacuum results, Trump's administration has said it wants to help restore electricity, water and sewage in areas freed from IS — but no more. In Iraq, the situation is somewhat easier because there's a globally backed central government.

In Afghanistan, some questions still must be cleared up. Despite his vow of non-interference, Trump emphasized he could hold back future military and economic aid unless the Afghan government combats problems including rampant corruption.

"We're not going to tell these countries how to govern, but we're going to condition our assistance on reforms — that's an internal contradiction," said James Dobbins, a senior diplomat in the past three administrations and former special envoy for Afghanistan and Pakistan.

KEEP YOUR PLANS QUIET

Of all the critiques of Trump's plan, the loudest is that he declined to tell Americans how many more U.S. troops will be sent to Afghanistan after 16 years of fighting.

His rationale is simple: Deny the Taliban and other extremists the advantage of anticipating U.S. military moves.

However, the contours of the Pentagon's plan have been known for months. Senior officials said Tuesday up to 3,900 more troops will go, some possibly within days.

Being unpredictable to U.S. adversaries has been a consistent Trump focus. The president was similarly coy in April in the days before he attacked Syrian President Bashar Assad's forces for using chemical weapons.

He has repeatedly refused to entertain questions about a potential preemptive attack on North Korea.

"We don't talk about that. I never do," Trump has said.

DON'T 'MICROMANAGE'

Rather than centralize military decision-making in the White House, a critique often leveled at Obama, Trump has delegated much of the authority to his defense secretary and warzone commanders.

"Micromanagement from Washington, D.C., does not win battles," he said in his Afghanistan speech.

Even before he unveiled his Afghan plan, the White House announced he'd given the Pentagon final say on how many troops to send. And in April, his top commander in Afghanistan was allowed to use the "mother of all bombs," the largest non-nuclear bomb ever dropped in combat. There was no need for the White House signoff.

Trump has similarly ceded decision-making about military actions in Syria and Iraq to his commanders, along with decisions about counterterrorism strikes against targets in several countries.

"He clearly is much more willing to give the military latitude on tactical decision than President Obama was," said Ambassador James Jeffrey, Bush's former deputy national security adviser. "That's all in all a good thing for this kind of conflict."

CRACKDOWN ON ENABLERS

As Trump vowed to get tough on Pakistan, accusing it of giving "safe haven to agents of chaos, violence and terror," diplomatic and military officials heard echoes of his plan for North Korea.

For more than a decade, the U.S. has pressed Islamabad to snuff out Taliban sanctuaries. Many of the group's leaders reside in Pakistan, traveling freely across the Afghanistan border. Taliban wounded are treated in Pakistani hospitals.

With North Korea, it's China that must feel the weight of U.S. pressure, Trump has said. He has tried to squeeze Beijing into cutting off lifelines of economic support to North Korea to make it harder for Pyongyang to develop weapons that could harm the U.S.

LET LOCALS LEAD

In Afghanistan, as in Iraq and Syria, Trump's plan centers on training local forces to fight insurgents rather than relying on Americans to do most of the fighting. While the same strategy was employed by Obama, Trump has claimed credit since taking office.

"The confidence that the American people and the world heard last night from our commander in chief derives from the fact that this is exactly the approach that President Trump directed in Iraq and in Syria." Vice President Mike Pence said Tuesday.



File photos show U.S. Navy ships, clockwise from top left, the USS Antietam, the USS Lake Champlain, the USS John S. McCain and the USS Fitzgerald. The commander of U.S. naval operations has ordered a comprehensive review to get to root causes after the collision this week between the Navy destroyer McCain and an oil tanker near Singapore. Navy ships have been in at least four accidents in the Pacific this year. (U.S. Navy and AP Photos)

COLLISIONS

Continued from A-1

ney.

Long-standing protocols for avoiding collisions include having sailors watching the water on all sides, radar systems detecting obstructions and commanders carving clear paths ahead.

The Navy has ordered an "operational pause," which Blaxland said makes sense "to explore what on Earth is happening."

Though the investigation into the McCain collision has only just begun, analysts say there are many possible causes, including crew fatigue, command shortfalls, radar malfunctions, software glitches and even jammed signals that might have prevented the warship from detecting obstacles.

Both the McCain and the Fitzgerald are guided-missile destroyers stationed with the U.S. Navy's 7th Fleet in the Pacific. Both collisions occurred in early-morning darkness in crowded shipping lanes, near allied shores. And both were struck by enormous commercial vessels that would have been slower to change course to avoid impact.

Both warships sustained damage that caused flooding in several internal compartments including sleeping berths.

"The U.S. Navy has been

conducting a lot of activities across the South Pacific region, and it brings up the question of whether the force is stretched, covering so many areas," said Ridwan Rahmat, a naval defense expert for Jane's. "There is a question of possible crew fatigue. That is the question I would be asking as an investigator, is this tempo of operations sustainable?"

The McCain had been sailing to a routine port visit in Singapore via a narrow, rocky strait that is among the world's busiest. Some 1,000 ships are in the strait at any given time, guided by a system of traffic lanes.

Though ships have been plying the congested area for decades with few incidents, the accident rate in the region is rising, according to insurer Allianz Global Corporate & Specialty. While Southeast Asia accounted for 21 percent of global shipping losses registered in 2007-2015, that rose to 27 percent in 2016, it said.

The Fitzgerald had been further north, also in a busy shipping lane that is a gateway to Tokyo. It had been returning from several days of bilateral exercises to its port in Japan on June 17 when the bow of the ACX Crystal container ship slammed into its right side, quickly flooding several areas inside, including a berthing area where 35 sailors were asleep.

In a statement last week,

the 7th Fleet said the June 17 collision "was avoidable, and both ships demonstrated poor seamanship." The ship's captain has been relieved of duty and more than a dozen other sailors punished, though some of the crew were commended for helping to save fellow crew members after the collision.

Navy officials continue to investigate the Fitzgerald collision, and analysts said the McCain accident may cause them to examine it further still.

"This second incident may imply an underlying issue in the Navy's command culture," said Andrew Lambert, a professor of naval history at Kings College London. "Being the biggest and the best for decades can breed complacency, which is not a good thing at sea."

In both collisions, no data on the warships' movements are publicly available. In a common security practice by U.S. Navy commanders, neither had switched on their Automated Identification Systems, which involve radio transponders to help prevent such collisions.

They should have had their own radar systems on — a usually failsafe way to detect nearby obstacles. Yet, both collisions involved large commercial ships with massive radar profiles that are "impossible to miss, if you are looking," Lambert said.

"There's really only two

ways you can fail to avoid ships of that size — one is not to have the radar switched on; the other is not to be looking at the radar."

The U.S. Navy said the McCain sustained damage to its port side aft, or left rear, while the Alnic MC commercial tanker sustained damage at the front. That is not enough information to suggest fault or cause.

A month before the Fitzgerald's accident, a South Korean fishing boat collided with the USS Lake Champlain guided-missile cruiser off the Korean Peninsula while it was operating in the western Pacific as part of the 3rd Fleet's USS Carl Vinson aircraft carrier strike group. No one was injured in the May 9 mishap.

On Jan. 31, the USS Antietam guided-missile cruiser ran aground near the Yokosuka base that is the home port for the 7th Fleet, damaging its propellers and leaking about 1,100 gallons of hydraulic fuel into Tokyo Bay. The ship's commander was relieved from duty.

Blaxland, the Australian defense expert, said the repeated incidents have been shuddering in terms of the Navy's confidence.

"The U.S. Navy has a reputation for being peerless. It is the gold standard by which other nations measure themselves," Blaxland said.

"There's no doubt it has