

# STARS AND STRIPES<sup>®</sup>

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## NATO worries Russian missile system could violate accord

Associated Press

BRUSSELS — NATO said Friday that it is concerned about a Russian missile system that could carry nuclear warheads that it says could violate a landmark Cold War arms treaty.

The U.S.-led military alliance said in a statement that “allies have identified a Russian missile system that raises serious concerns.”

It urged Russia “to address these concerns in a substantial and transparent way, and actively engage in a technical dialogue with the United States.”

NATO fears the system contravenes the 1987 Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty. The Cold War-era pact bans an entire class of weapons — all land-based cruise missiles with a range between 310 and 3,410 miles.

The statement said a situation whereby the U.S. and other parties abided by the treaty but Russia did not “would be a grave and urgent concern.”

The concern centers on Russia’s 9M729 missiles. Washington has given evidence that Russia is developing the ground-fired cruise missile and said the system could give Moscow the ability to launch a nuclear strike in Europe with little or no notice.

Russia has claimed that U.S. missile defenses violate the pact. In the past, the Obama administration worked to convince Moscow to respect the INF treaty but seemed to make no progress.

The U.S. envoy to NATO, Kay Bailey Hutchison, described Russia’s behavior as “dangerous and destabilizing.”

“Our Allies reaffirmed that the U.S. is in compliance with our obligations under the INF Treaty and that Russia’s behavior raises serious concerns,” she said in a statement.

The NATO statement comes after a meeting between the U.S. and Russia in the Special Verification Commission this week and is part of broader efforts to bring Moscow into compliance with the treaty.

## Trump’s security paper offers stark vision of global rivalry

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump’s “America First” vision is a stark worldview that sees rivals battling each other for supremacy or relevance and has little use for alliances, treaties and other international agreements unless they directly benefit the U.S., its industry and its workers.

Trump’s doctrine, to be laid out next week when he unveils his National Security Strategy, holds that nation-states are in perpetual competition and the U.S. must fight on all fronts to protect and defend its sovereignty from friend and foe alike. While the administration often says that “America First” does not mean “America Alone,” the NSS to be presented by Trump on Monday will make clear that the U.S. will stand up for itself even if that means acting unilaterally or alienating others on issues like trade, climate change and immigration, according to sources familiar with the strategy.

If fully implemented, the strategy could represent a profound shift from the traditional, post-Cold War approach to global affairs taken by administrations of both political parties during the past three decades. With few exceptions, those administrations have embraced or sought to embrace multilateral cooperation and engagement.

Despite the risk of potential isolation presented by Trump’s strategy, its fundamentals are not a surprise.

The Associated Press reviewed excerpts of a late draft of the roughly 70-page document and spoke to two sources familiar with it. The strategy is largely drawn from themes Trump has described in speeches and is based on four pillars: protecting the homeland, stimulating American prosperity, promoting peace through strength and enhancing American leadership.

It is rooted in Trump’s belief that competition, rather than cooperation, defines the current global environment, the sources said. An excerpt of the strategy seen by the AP emphasizes that America often has fought to protect its interests.

“America’s achievements and standing in the world were neither inevitable nor accidental,” the draft says. “On many occasions, Americans have had to compete with adver-

sarial forces to preserve and advance our security, prosperity, and the principles we hold dear.”

National security adviser H.R. McMaster outlined the four pillars of the strategy in a speech this week in which he declared that “geopolitics are back, and they are back with a vengeance.”

He said the new strategy, the first of Trump’s administration, would identify threats to the U.S. and its interests from “revisionist powers” like Russia and China, “rogue regimes” like Iran and North Korea and nonstate actors like terrorist groups and criminal enterprises. In that, the strategy is not dissimilar to those of previous administrations.

But the sources, who fleshed out McMaster’s preview on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly pre-empt Trump’s speech, said it would emphasize that U.S. economic security is national security and that economic security must be ensured with military might. And, they said, it would stress the U.S. is interested only in relationships with other countries, including alliances like NATO, that are fair and reciprocal.

In addition, the strategy will say that staying competitive and successfully defending U.S. sovereignty starts with protecting America’s borders and controlling who may cross them.

“Strengthening control over our borders and immigration system is central to national security, economic prosperity and the rule of law,” the draft says. “Terrorists, drug traffickers and criminal cartels exploit porous borders and threaten U.S. security and public safety. These actors adapt quickly to outpace our defenses. The United States affirms its sovereign right to determine who should enter our country and under what circumstances.”

The early draft of the strategy lamented that America has put itself at a disadvantage by entering into multinational agreements, such as those aimed at combating climate change, and introducing domestic policies to implement them. That draft downplayed the national security risk of climate change and emphasized the costs to the U.S. economy of environmental and other regulations aimed at mitigating it.

# Tillerson walks back offer of N. Korea talks

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — America's top diplomat stepped back Friday from his offer of unconditional talks with North Korea, telling world powers the nuclear-armed nation must earn the right to negotiate with the U.S.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson's declaration before the U.N. Security Council marked a stunning reversal after he proposed discussions with Pyongyang without preconditions earlier this week. That over-

ture was rebutted almost immediately by White House officials.

Still, Tillerson had planned to reiterate his call at a special U.N. ministerial meeting on North Korea at the council Friday morning. His prepared remarks suggested only that North Korea would have to undertake a sustained halt in its threatening behavior before talks could begin. But Tillerson changed the script.

"North Korea must earn its way back to the table," Tillerson told the foreign min-

isters. "The pressure campaign must and will continue until denuclearization is achieved. We will in the meantime keep our channels of communication open."

The debate over offering North Korea unconditional talks reflects the differences within the Trump administration as it runs out of time to prevent North Korea from perfecting a nuclear-tipped missile that can strike the U.S. mainland. President Donald Trump has vowed to prevent such capability, with military action if necessary.

## Navy ending 3 popular programs for early separation

BY JASON BEHNKE  
*Stars and Stripes*

The Navy has announced it would cancel three early-separation programs in order to retain sailors to increase the size of the fleet.

The announcement, made Wednesday by Vice Adm. Robert Burke, the chief of Naval Personnel, ends one program that allowed enlisted personnel to apply for early separation and a second through which senior officers could retire early. A program that allowed servicemembers to request early separation for family or personal hardships also is being canceled.

In the announcement, Burke cited the needs of the "growing Navy" as the reason for the changes.

"This requires more people, at a time when we are still working our way back to desired sea duty manning levels, and when the competition for talent is especially keen," Burke said. "We will certainly recruit and train many more sailors to help meet these demands, but that will not be enough."

Earlier this year, the Navy increased the high-year tenure limits for sailors of ranks E-4 through E-6 by two years for each pay grade in another attempt to improve retention. On Thursday, they announced a high-year tenure increase from five to six years for E-3 sailors.

The Navy has a long-term goal to expand to about 350,000 sailors to meet President Donald Trump's 355-ship goal. Currently, the Navy has 322,000 sailors and 277 commissioned ships.

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## US says missile parts prove Iran is arming Houthis illicitly

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Flanked by singed missile remnants, President Donald Trump's envoy to the United Nations declared Thursday that "undeniable" evidence proves Iran is arming Houthi rebels in Yemen, the latest bid by the Trump administration to rally the world against the Persian Gulf nation.

U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley came to an emptied-out hangar at a military base not far from the U.S. Capitol where fragments recovered from missiles launched from Yemen were paraded before reporters. Haley said the truck-sized missile segment behind her had been launched at the international airport in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and "led the U.S. intelligence community to conclude unequivocally that these weapons were supplied by the Iranian regime."

"This is absolutely terrifying," said Haley, one of the Trump administration's most vocal critics of Iran. "Just imagine if this missile had been launched at Dulles Airport (in Virginia) or JFK (in New York) or the airports in Paris, London or Berlin. That's what we're talking about here."

The newly declassified evidence marked the most aggressive U.S. effort to date to substantiate its claim that Iran funnels weapons to the Houthis, an allegation widely accepted by most countries but that Tehran steadfastly denies. It comes as the Trump administration seeks to rally the world to punish Iran for its ballistic missile program and other worrying activities, despite backing away from the 2015 nuclear deal.

World powers that joined the U.S. in brokering that deal have voiced frustration at Trump's moves to "decertify" Iran's compliance with the deal as a prelude

to renegotiating it. The Obama-era deal rolled back Iran's nuclear program in exchange for billions of dollars in sanctions relief, but did not address Iran's missile-building or support for militant groups in the Middle East.

"Everyone has focused on the nuclear deal, and Iran has hidden behind the nuclear deal," Haley said. Gesturing to the missiles, she said, "These are the things they're doing while we're all looking the other way."

Haley and other officials said there were two reasons the U.S. knew the missiles could have come only from Iran. Some have specific markings indicating they were manufactured in Iran. One shredded piece of metal displayed to reporters bore the logo of Shahid Bakeri Industrial Group, an Iranian defense entity under U.S. sanctions.

Others have specific technical characteristics, such as a certain valve, that only Iranian missiles have — "Iranian missile fingerprints," Haley said. One short-range ballistic missile fragment lacked large stabilizer fins that are common to that class of missile. The only known short-range ballistic missiles that don't have those fins are Iran's Qiam missiles, Haley said.

"The weapons might as well have had 'Made in Iran' stickers," Haley quipped.

Not so, said Iran's government, standing behind its assertion that Iran hasn't sent any missiles to Yemen, where Shiite Houthi rebels aligned with Iran have taken over much of the country. Iran's envoy to the U.N., Gholamali Khoshroo, said it was "fake and fabricated" evidence that illustrates America's "irresponsible, destructive and provocative role" in the region, according to a statement carried by Iran's official IRNA news agency.

## Trump blasts FBI leadership

Associated Press

QUANTICO, Va. — President Donald Trump laced into FBI leadership Friday while proclaiming his loyalty and support for law enforcement in an address at the agency's training academy.

"It's a shame what's happened" with the FBI, the president said as he left the White House for a speech at the FBI training academy in Quantico, Va. He called the agency's handling of Hillary Clinton's email investigation "really disgraceful" and told reporters "we're going to rebuild the FBI."

Shortly afterward, Trump lavished praise on graduates of a weeks-long FBI National Academy program and their families, touting their accomplishments and pledging his unwavering support. Trump told law enforcement leaders he is "more loyal than anyone else could be" to police.

"Anti-police sentiment is wrong and it's dangerous," he added. "Anyone who kills a police officer should get the death penalty."

Trump used the speech to promote his administration's tough-on-crime policies, delivering a stern warning to members of the international gang MS-13 that his administration will root them out and arrest them.

He also celebrated his decision to make it easier for local police forces to purchase surplus military equipment, and questioned rising violence in Chicago.

"What the hell is going on in Chicago? What the hell is happening there," he asked.

Hours before, White House Deputy press secretary Hogan Gidley told Fox News Channel that edits to former FBI Director James Comey's statement on Clinton's private email server and anti-Trump texts from a top agent are "deeply troubling."

# GOP leaders finalize tax bill

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republicans finalized their sweeping tax package Friday, expanding the child tax credit to placate a reluctant GOP senator as they pushed to muscle the bill through Congress next week and give President Donald Trump his first major legislative victory.

GOP lawmakers have been working to win the support of Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida, a potential holdout, and they say they don't see an obstacle for passage.

Rubio wrote on Twitter earlier Friday that he was dissatisfied with the size of a tax credit that low-income families can claim for their children.

Members of a House-Senate conference committee signed the final version of the legislation Friday, sending it to the House and the Senate for final passage.

Rubio's office said he was still reviewing the bill.

The tax package would double the basic per-child tax credit from \$1,000 to \$2,000. The bill makes a smaller amount available to families even if they owe no income tax. Rep. Kristi Noem of South Dakota said Friday the amount has been increased from \$1,100 to \$1,400.

Rubio's potential defection had pushed the Republicans' razor-thin majority in the Senate closer to the edge.

Senate Republicans still could pass the package without Rubio's vote, but they would be cut-

ting it extremely close. An original version was approved 51-49 — with Rubio's support.

The Senate turmoil erupted after a key faction of House Republicans came out in favor of the bill, boosting its chances. Members of the conservative House Freedom Caucus predicted the vast majority of their members would support the package.

The bill would cut the top tax rate for the wealthiest Americans from 39.6 percent to 37 percent.

The package would nearly double the standard deduction, to \$24,000 for married couples. But it would scale back the deduction for state and local taxes, allowing families to deduct only up to a total of \$10,000 in property and income taxes. The deduction is especially important to residents of high-tax states such as New York, New Jersey and California.

The final package slashes the corporate rate from 35 percent to 21 percent.

Rubio's opposition had come at a bad time for Senate Republicans, with two of them missing votes this week because of illness.

John McCain, of Arizona, is at a Washington-area military hospital being treated for the side effects of brain cancer treatment, and Thad Cochran, of Mississippi, had a non-melanoma lesion removed from his nose earlier this week. GOP leaders are hopeful they will be available next week.

## Charlottesville car attack suspect faces new charge of first-degree murder

Associated Press

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — The man accused of driving into a crowd protesting a white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Va., faces a new charge of first-degree murder after a court hearing Thursday in which prosecutors presented surveillance video and other evidence against him.

Prosecutors announced at the start of a preliminary hearing for James Alex Fields that they were seeking to upgrade the second-degree murder charge he previously faced in the Aug. 12 collision in Charlottesville that left Heather Heyer, 32, dead and dozens injured. The judge agreed to that and ruled there is probable cause for all charges against Fields, including nine lesser felony counts, to proceed.

Fields' case now will be presented to a grand jury for an indictment.

Authorities said Fields, 20, described by a former teacher as having a keen interest in Nazi Germany and Adolf Hitler, drove his speeding car into a group of counterprotesters the day of the "Unite the Right" rally that drew hundreds of white nationalist from around the country. The attack came after the rally in this Virginia college town had descended into chaos — with violent brawling between attendees and counterdemonstrators — and authorities had forced the crowd to disband.

Surveillance footage from a Virginia State Police helicopter, played by prosecutors in court, captured the moment of impact by the car and the cursing of the startled troopers on board.

The video then showed the car as it reversed, drove away and eventually pulled over. The helicopter had been monitoring the violence, and prosecutors questioned Charlottesville police Detective Steven Young about the video as it played.

Another surveillance video from a restaurant showed the car heading slowly in what Young testified was the direction of the counterprotesters, who were not in view of the camera. The car reversed before speeding forward into the frame again.

Fields, of Maumee, Ohio, sat quietly in a striped jumpsuit with his hands cuffed during the hearing.

His attorney, Denise Lunsford, did not present evidence nor make any arguments at the hearing, although she did cross-examine the detective.

## Firefighter dies taking on California blaze

Associated Press

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. — One of the thousands of firefighters battling a series of wildfires across Southern California has died, but authorities gave no hint of how.

San Diego-based Cory Iverson was assigned to the blaze northwest of Los Angeles, which has become the fourth largest in California history. Iverson, 32, was an engineer with a state fire engine strike team. He died Thursday.

Dozens of police and fire vehicles escorted a hearse carrying Iverson's flag-draped body to the county medical examiner's office in Ventura.

Iverson had been with the state since 2009 and is survived by his pregnant wife and a 2-year-old daughter, said fire Chief Ken Pimlott, of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

It was the second death linked to the fire. A 70-year-old woman was killed in a car crash while evacuating as the fire raged last week. Her body was found inside the wrecked car along an evacuation route.

Pimlott did not provide any details about Iverson's death but said it was under investigation by an accident review team.

A return of gusty Santa Ana winds brought renewed activity to inland portions of the so-called Thomas Fire straddling coastal Ventura and Santa Barbara counties.

Authorities said it now covered 379 square miles.

## Actor Hoffman faces new claims of sexual misconduct

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — More women are accusing Dustin Hoffman of sexual misconduct, including an incident in which a playwright says the actor exposed himself to her in a New York hotel room when she was 16.

Playwright Cori Thomas described the 1980 incident in a story published Thursday by the trade outlet *Variety*. She confirmed the story in an email to *The Associated Press*.

Thomas said she was a classmate of Hoffman's daughter when she met the actor, who invited her to his hotel room to wait for her mother after a dinner with the teens. Thomas said that after Hoffman's daughter left, the actor took a shower and came out wearing only a towel, which she told *Variety* he dropped, exposing himself to her. Hoffman then put on a robe and asked Thomas to massage his feet, Thomas said, and repeatedly asked her whether she wanted to see him naked again.

The *Variety* report included the account of another woman, Melissa Kester, who said the actor pushed his hand down her pants while they were in a recording studio. The incident occurred while Hoffman was recording music for the film "Ishtar" and happened behind a partition while others, including Kester's boyfriend, were nearby.

Hoffman's publicist and attorney did not return email messages seeking comment Thursday.

It is the latest allegation of sexual harassment or abuse against Hoffman, 80, an Oscar winner.

Actress Anna Graham Hunter has alleged that Hoffman groped her and made inappropriate comments when she was 17 and an intern on the set of the 1985 TV movie "Death of a Salesman."

Hoffman said in an earlier statement that the incident "is not reflective of who I am."

The report came a week after Hoffman was questioned pointedly about his treatment of women by late-night host John Oliver. Hoffman appeared blindsided by Oliver's questioning at a panel hosted by Oliver.

In a lengthy statement emailed to the AP, Thomas wrote of Hunter's allegations, "I recognized Ms. Hunter's story as the truth immediately because of the similarities to what happened to me."

She said attacks on Hunter's credibility led her to speak to *Variety* about her experience with Hoffman.

"In response to why I've stayed quiet for so many years, I have not stayed quiet for so many years. Friends and family have been aware of this story for many, many years. I just didn't go to newspapers with the story is all," she wrote. "And I regret that. I realize now that the reason this continued to happen to others was because of my silence, and I feel guilty about that but I hadn't even processed how badly this shamed and hurt me."

## Calif. issues first licenses for legal marijuana market

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — California's legal marijuana market is finally, fitfully, taking shape.

The state on Thursday issued the first batch of business licenses to sell and transport recreational-use pot, just 18 days before legal sales will begin Jan. 1.

The 20 temporary licenses — some of which were for the previously existing medical marijuana industry — represent a fraction of the thousands of licenses expected to follow as the state embraces legal weed in 2018, but their release set off jubilation.

The first distributor license for recreational pot was awarded to Pure CA, which does business as Moxie brand products, a company known for its cannabis extracts.

"I couldn't be more excited," Moxie CEO Jordan Lams said.

At Torrey Holistics in San Diego, Tony Hall credited his business background and detailed application with helping land the first license for a retail shop to sell recreational pot. The store, which has two certified public accountants, a chief financial officer and a marketing director, submitted a 60-page lease, diagrams and a detailed business plan.

"I think it's how we conduct our business. We all have a professional background," said Hall, the former owner of a chemical distribution company who opened the medical marijuana shop two years ago with a college friend.

He sees recreational marijuana taking off like the wine and craft beer industries.

At his store, customers go through an electronic security gate manned by a guard. Once inside, the business looks like a stylish pharmacy with wood floors and

Christmas decorations.

"The taboo part is slowly going to be removed, and this is going to be like any other business," Hall said.

The small number of recreational pot licenses — and the quickly vanishing year — mean that choices likely will be limited for consumers looking to ring in 2018 with a legal purchase on Jan. 1. Businesses must have local permits and state licenses to conduct business in the new marketplace.

In general, California will treat cannabis like alcohol, allowing people 21 and older to legally possess up to an ounce and to grow six marijuana plants at home.

The route to legalization began last year when voters approved Proposition 64, which opened the way for recreational pot sales to adults in the nation's most populous state, home to one in eight Americans.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## C-A-T named D-O-G is star canine trainer

**MO** ST. LOUIS — A cat with an unlikely name has an important job at a training center for dogs.

Support Dogs Inc. in St. Louis took in the black-and-white cat during the summer and named him D-O-G. He's more than a mascot — officials said he plays a key role getting the dogs comfortable around other animals. Assistance dogs need to be well-behaved and not distracted in their jobs helping people who are deaf or have mobility problems.

Support Dogs President and CEO Anne Klein said D-O-G is "fearless" around the larger canines and plays with their tails, sleeps in their beds and eats and drinks from their bowls instead of his own.

## Busy beavers wreak havoc, cause flooding

**NY** NEW YORK — Some busy beavers are wreaking havoc in a New York City neighborhood.

The Staten Island Advance reported that the city's Department of Environmental Protection has been grappling with problems caused by a beaver lodge and dam.

It's caused flooding in a creek that's linked to a major storm water management system.

Environmental workers cleared a 2-foot hole so water could get through. The next morning, it was completely closed again. Now the humans have placed wire cages around some of the bigger trees.

## Expecting dad stages pregnancy photos

**MA** PEABODY — An expecting father in Massachusetts has shown off

his paternal glow with a pregnancy photo shoot.

Peabody resident Nick Roberts surprised his pregnant girlfriend with the photos at their gender-reveal party in June before their son, Logan, was born. Some of the photos show Roberts posing at a beach in the town of Nahant, cradling his visible belly.

Roberts said he and his friend, who is a photographer, grabbed some fast food before the shoot to "try to look a little pregnant."

Roberts' girlfriend, Brianna Magee, told WHDH-TV she flipped through the pictures and "just started laughing harder and harder."

## Candy company's bear is found a year later

**KS** ABILENE — Authorities have found a 150-pound, 4-foot-tall sculpted bear that was stolen more than a year ago from in front of a Russell Stover Candies factory in the central Kansas town of Abilene.

The Wichita Eagle reported that Abilene Police Department assistant chief Jason Wilkins said the bear's November 2016 theft had "become a running joke." He said early leads in the case didn't pan out, and it wasn't until last week that a tip led police to a Salina garage where the bear was found. The bear was in the same condition as when it was stolen in 2016.

## Rookie bomb-sniffing dog has poop problem

**IL** CHICAGO — A rookie bomb-sniffing dog at Chicago's Midway International Airport is having a little trouble waiting to poop in the proper place.

The Chicago Sun-Times reported the dog has been pooping in the terminals and

concourses.

Kevin McCarthy, who heads up Transportation Security Administration operations at Midway, said it doesn't impact the dog's ability to do her work looking for contraband. The dog is four months into her job, and McCarthy says he's confident the problem eventually will stop.

The newspaper said the 2-year-old dog has been getting jittery in crowds, but any mess is quickly cleaned up.

"It's not going to ruin her career," McCarthy said.

## Cow again returned to nativity scene

**PA** PHILADELPHIA — A cow that escaped twice from a nativity scene in Philadelphia is back in place.

The cow, nicknamed "Stormy," wandered away from the nativity scene at Old First Reformed Church of Christ Thursday and ended up on Interstate 95. Philadelphia police eventually boxed in the cow with their cruisers before walking it off the interstate and returning it to the church. However, WPVI-TV reported it was not long before the cow took off again despite efforts by Rev. Michael Caine to stop the animal. It was found on the fourth floor of a parking garage, then returned to the nativity.

## Dirigible's new home an inflatable hangar

**CA** CARSON — Morning commuters on a Southern California highway were greeted Wednesday by a huge structure that wasn't there the night before.

In a matter of hours overnight, Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. raised a giant, inflatable hangar that will be the permanent home of one of the company's new airships, which

replaced its original blimps.

The building standing nine stories and stretching the length of a football field went up along Interstate 405 south of Los Angeles in suburban Carson. It will house Wingfoot Two, which began flying over college football games in Los Angeles in October.

Goodyear said the hangar is the largest structure of its type in North America. Twenty fans inflated the hangar's air cells and will maintain pressure.

Wingfoot Two, which is technically a dirigible rather than a blimp, is scheduled to leave its temporary home at Long Beach Airport and to arrive in Carson on Friday. Goodyear has operated the base in Carson since 1968 and plans to mark its 50th anniversary next year.

## Sen. Warren gets turn as comic book hero

**MA** BOSTON — All comic book heroes need a sequel — even Sen. Elizabeth Warren.

The Massachusetts Democrat was the focus last year of a 22-page comic titled "Female Force: Elizabeth Warren" which told the story of Warren's rise from Oklahoma schoolgirl to U.S. senator and champion of the liberal wing of the Democratic Party. Now publisher TidalWave Comics is bringing out a sequel — "Female Force: Elizabeth Warren #2" — which chronicles the early days of Warren's 2012 Senate campaign and her rise to power.

Instead of Batman battling the Joker, readers can follow along as Warren battles Congress to ease the burden of student loan debt.

Past subjects of the series include Hillary Clinton, Michelle Obama, Condoleezza Rice, Oprah Winfrey, Ellen DeGeneres and Nancy Pelosi.

From wire reports

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# Several teams playing home bowl games

Associated Press

BOCARATON, Fla. — Sometime late Friday afternoon, Florida Atlantic will load up its luggage and head south to the hotel that will house the Conference USA champions for their bowl-game preparations.

It'll be a 4-mile drive.

The comforts of home await the Owls this weekend as they get ready to play in the Boca Raton Bowl, and they're hardly the only team in America that won't be seeing a new part of the country as part of the post-season perk package. FAU, Miami, Navy and Memphis are playing bowl games on their home fields, and five other teams — six if Georgia makes the College Football Playoff title game — will play bowls in their home states.

"A chance to stay home is really special, basically to have another home game," said FAU coach Lane Kiffin, whose Owls will essentially "host" Akron in the Boca Raton Bowl. "From that advantage, it's really neat. Our players obviously at first were like, 'Well, we don't get to go anywhere.' But then when they really looked at it, they realize, 'Hey, we're honored

because we're going to the best bowl that there is for our conference.'"

The Boca Raton Bowl is Tuesday, the first of the four de facto home games for some teams in this postseason. Navy is remaining in Annapolis, Md., for its bowl, the Dec. 28 Military Bowl against Virginia. Miami is headed to the Orange Bowl on Dec. 30, where Wisconsin awaits. And Memphis is off to the Liberty Bowl, set to meet Iowa State on Dec. 30.

Memphis had hopes of getting into a New Year's Six bowl. When that didn't happen after a loss to UCF in the American Athletic Conference title game, wide receiver Anthony Miller said going to the Liberty Bowl "was the next-best thing."

"I don't mind," Miller said. "I just love the energy of being at the Liberty Bowl. I love being in Memphis. I love the fans. It's my senior year. It's my last year. I don't think there's a better way that I could end it."

FAU hasn't been to a bowl game since 2008, so its upperclassmen all will attest that being home for a bowl obviously is better than being at home with no games left to play. Navy

had prearranged many of its bowl sites for the last decade or so, though now falls into the AAC mix — and the Military Bowl was thrilled to pit the Midshipmen against the Cavaliers, given how the campuses are roughly 150 miles apart.

Miami ended a decade-long bowl-victory drought last season, rose to No. 2 in the national rankings this season before dropping its final two games and has reveled in how that success re-energized the fan base. The Hurricanes fell out of CFP contention with losses to Pittsburgh and Clemson, but one last night at Hard Rock Stadium is more than a consolation prize for their seniors.

"It's going to be somewhat of a home game for us," coach Mark Richt said. "It is our home stadium. Our fans have been phenomenal all year long. It's been one of the best turnouts of fans, probably in the history of Hard Rock Stadium. ... Even though we are home, in our home city, we know we're going to get a chance to do some things we don't normally get to do that the bowl will provide for us."

Florida International, SMU, Texas, TCU and Wake Forest

are also playing in-state bowls. SMU is going only 28 miles to Frisco, Texas, for its game, Wake Forest is going 80 miles to Charlotte, and Texas coach Tom Herman is going back to Houston — his former home.

"I think it's neat," Herman said. "It's a city that my family and myself have called home on a couple of different occasions, at Rice (and) at the University of Houston. ... It is a city that I have a lot of friends and people that I know back there, and I'm excited to bring our team out to Houston to play in front of them."

The last time Wake Forest went to Charlotte for a bowl game, the Demon Deacons brought 30,000 fans.

"We expect that number to increase," athletic director Ron Wellman said.

Miami isn't staying at "home," per se. The Hurricanes are moving to a resort in Broward County on Christmas night for bowl week, part of the Orange Bowl's contractual obligations. And even though Wisconsin and Akron both know they're playing road games, leaving winter behind for a few days seems like a fair trade-off.

# Osweiler comes off bench to lead Broncos past Colts

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The Denver Broncos know where they stand.

There will be no playoffs and no winning record this season. But at least after Brock Osweiler's relief appearance Thursday night, they'll no longer be talking about a road losing streak next week.

Osweiler ran for one touchdown and threw for two more after replacing an injured Trevor Siemian, leading the Broncos back from a 10-point deficit to beat the Indianapolis Colts 25-13 and snap an eight-game skid away from home.

"It's just fun to win," Denver coach Vance Joseph said. "It started Monday, getting ready

for this game. It's tough to play two games in five days and you have to embrace it."

Sure, the Broncos (5-9) could have played out the string after watching a promising start turn into a recurring nightmare.

Instead, they snapped an eight-game losing streak with Sunday's shutout against the New York Jets and followed that up with their first win outside Denver since Dec. 4, 2016.

And now that they've averted the possibility of their first winless season on the road since 1964, the Broncos can go after their third straight victory when they visit Washington in nine days.

The problem is, Joseph doesn't know yet who will be

starting at quarterback.

Siemian left after being driven into the ground by linebacker Barkevious Mingo on Denver's second series and was diagnosed with a sprained left shoulder. Joseph couldn't say whether a few extra off days would be enough to get back Siemian back on the field.

It might not matter if Osweiler continues to play as well as he did against the reeling Colts (3-11).

The one-time quarterback of the future in Denver rekindled those memories by going 12-for-17 for 194 yards and scoring on an 18-yard run that ended with a dive into the end zone.

"Whether you are the first string, second string, third

string or fourth string, you are getting paid to be a professional quarterback and be prepared," Osweiler said. "That's really it. I was just simply doing my job."

Having fun, too.

For the Colts, it was another miserable game.

After scoring the first 10 points, they gave up Osweiler's scoring run. And after taking a 13-7 lead early in the third quarter, they allowed Osweiler to hook up with Cody Latimer on a 22-yard TD pass, Jeff Heurman on a 54-yard TD pass and Latimer on a 2-point conversion to seal the game and Indy's first losing season at home in six years.

# Lecomte, Baylor whip Texas Southern

Associated Press

WACO, Texas — Manu Lecomte's wrap on his injured left thumb will come off eventually, assuming it heals.

Baylor coach Scott Drew chuckled while wondering whether that was a good thing.

"Maybe we need to wrap his hand all the time," Drew said after Lecomte scored 22 points in his return after missing a game, helping the 21st-ranked Bears to a 99-68 victory over winless Texas Southern on Thursday night. "He was really good tonight."

With the wrap on his non-shooting thumb, the Bears point guard was 7-for-11 from the field, made all five free throws and had a game-high six assists in the 46th consecutive home win over an unranked non-conference opponent for the Bears (8-2).

It was their third straight win since losing to No. 3 Wichita State on the Waco campus. Baylor improved to 11-0 against Texas Southern as the teams met for the fourth straight year.

Nuni Omot matched Lecomte with 22 points in the first game since scoring a career-high 30,

and Jo Lual-Acuil had 18 points and two blocks with his Sudanese parents watching. In town for his graduation Saturday, his mom and dad hadn't seen him in four years.

"I was nervous for the game, just because my mom has never seen me play," said Lual-Acuil, who was born in Sudan before moving to Uganda and Australia as a child. "No words can really explain how I'm feeling ... It was definitely a special moment and a day I'll always remember."

Trae Jefferson scored 24 points for the Tigers (0-10), who are playing every November and December game away from home for the third straight year.

This year, the schedule for former Indiana coach Mike Davis' Southwestern Athletic Conference team has included No. 12 Gonzaga and 13th-ranked Kansas along with Ohio State, Syracuse and Oregon.

"I think we lose money when we play home games. I want our guys to get out and play on the road so we can get used to playing against real good competition," Davis said. "That's the only way to get better. It's

worked for us the last three years."

Lecomte, who missed a win over Randall when the Bears played at nearby Fort Hood for the third straight year, had a four-point play when he got fouled on a corner three to spark an 11-2 run for a 35-24 lead late in the first half.

The 5-foot-11 native of Belgium had another three-pointer and five points in a 17-0 spurt for a 62-37 lead in the second half. Lecomte was 3-for-6 from long range.

## Big picture

**Texas Southern:** It doesn't mean much for the Tigers to lose most or all of their non-conference games. They play a schedule that looks like something from Davis' days with the Hoosiers, and they haven't played at home in November or December since 2014. Texas Southern has still won at least 22 games twice in the previous three seasons and made the NCAA Tournament as SWAC tourney champion three of the past four years.

**Baylor:** The Bears' dominance showed up best in the

shooting percentages for both teams. Baylor matched a season high at 66 percent to 41 percent for Texas Southern. The Bears were 10-for-18 from long range (57 percent). Since losing to the Shockers, Baylor has beaten three overmatched opponents by an average of 27 points.

## Outside to inside

Omot did most of his damage inside after setting career highs for three-pointers and attempts (6-for-8) against Randall, going 10-for-12 from the field and 2-for-3 from beyond the arc. He didn't shoot a free throw after two more career bests (12-for-17) in the Fort Hood game.

## Close calls

The Bears set the school record for shooting percentage for the second time this season — by two-hundredths of a percentage point (66.12 percent to 66.10 percent in a 107-66 win over Central Arkansas in the opener). They came up short on the other close call, missing by a point what would have been consecutive 100-point games for the first time since 1989. Baylor beat Randall 105-82.

## NBA roundup

# James' triple-double lifts Cavs over Lakers

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — LeBron James recorded his 59th career triple-double in front of Lonzo Ball and his brothers, Kevin Love scored 28 points and the Cleveland Cavaliers won for the 16th time in 17 games, 121-112 over the Los Angeles Lakers on Thursday night.

James finished with 25 points, 12 rebounds and 12 assists to move into a tie with Larry Bird for sixth place on the career triple-doubles list. He also put the Lakers away with a dunk and short runner in the final two minutes.

**Warriors 112, Mavericks 97:** Kevin Durant had 36 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists, and short-handed Golden State beat visiting Dallas for its eighth straight win.

Klay Thompson scored 25 points, making all five of his three-pointers and shooting 10-for-18 overall as the Warriors pulled away in the third quarter. Omri Casspi earned another start and posted his 17th career double-double with season bests of 17 points and 11 rebounds, and the Jewish forward shined playing on Jewish Heritage Night and the third night of Hanukkah.

**Knicks 111, Nets 104:** Courtney Lee scored 18 of his 27 points in the second half, Michael Beasley added 15, and host New York held on to beat Brooklyn after losing star forward Kristaps Porzingis to a sore left knee early in the second half.

Enes Kanter had 13 points and nine rebounds for the Knicks, who earned just their second road victory of the season. Their only other one was Oct. 29 at Cleveland.

**Timberwolves 119, Kings 96:** Karl-Anthony Towns had 30 points and 14 rebounds in his league-leading 23rd double-

double, Jimmy Butler added 21 points and nine assists and Minnesota cruised past visiting Sacramento.

Andrew Wiggins scored 22 points for Minnesota (17-12), which has won three of four and is off to the third-best start in franchise history after 29 games.

**Pistons 105, Hawks 91:** Andre Drummond had 12 points, 19 rebounds and a career-high nine assists, Tobias Harris added 19 points and Detroit snapped a seven-game slide with a road victory over NBA-worst Atlanta.

## NHL roundup

# Chiasson helps Capitals outlast Bruins

Associated Press

BOSTON — Alex Chiasson scored two third-period goals, the second on a short-handed breakaway with 8:29 left, and the Washington Capitals beat the Boston Bruins 5-3 on Thursday night.

Patrice Bergeron scored twice for Boston, moving past Bobby Orr on the team's all-time list with his 265th career goal and adding another in the final seconds.

Braden Holtby stopped 33 shots for the Capitals, who have beaten Boston 11 straight times. Jakub Vrana and Nicklas Backstrom also scored for Washington, and Alex Ovechkin added an empty-netter to make it 5-2 before Bergeron cut the deficit to two with 27 seconds left.

The Bruins had won three straight and nine of 11. Washington has won six of seven and nine of 11.

**Ducks 3, Blues 1:** Kevin Roy scored twice and John Gibson made 29 saves as visiting Anaheim defeated St. Louis.

**Blackhawks 5, Jets 1:** Patrick Kane and Nick Schmaltz each had a goal and an assist as visiting Chicago extended its season-high winning streak to four with a victory over Winnipeg.

**Blue Jackets 6, Islanders 4:** Zach Werenski had a goal and an assist, and Sergei Bobrovsky stopped 21 shots to help host Columbus hold off New York.

**Wild 2, Maple Leafs 0:** Alex Stalock stopped 28 shots for his first NHL shutout in three seasons, steering host Minne-

sota past Toronto for its fourth straight victory.

**Flyers 2, Sabres 1:** Valtteri Filppula scored the game-winner with 2½ minutes left in the second period and Travis Sanheim netted his first career goal to help host Philadelphia edge Buffalo for its fifth straight victory.

**Canadiens 2, Devils 1 (OT):** Tomas Plekanec scored 1:52 into overtime and host Montreal beat New Jersey to snap a three-game slide.

**Golden Knights 2, Penguins 1:** Jon Merrill's first goal of the season snapped a third-period tie, Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 24 shots against his former team and host Vegas beat Pittsburgh.

**Predators 4, Oilers 0:** Juuse Saros made 46 saves for his

second career shutout and Kyle Turris had a goal and an assist as visiting Nashville kept up its torrid pace of late by blanking Edmonton.

**Lightning 4, Coyotes 1:** Nikita Kucherov scored to remain tied for the NHL goals lead and visiting Tampa Bay beat Arizona for its season-high sixth straight victory.

**Avalanche 2, Panthers 1:** Nathan MacKinnon scored twice, Semyon Varlamov made 32 saves and host Colorado topped Florida for the second time in five days.

**Sharks 3, Flames 2:** Joonas Donskoi scored the game-winner late in the third period and had an assist to lead visiting San Jose over Calgary.

## Parade of relievers keeps rolling as winter meetings end

Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Much like the postseason, the baseball winter meetings became a parade of relievers.

Steve Cishek and Fernando Rodney were on the move Thursday, joining Brandon Morrow, Luke Gregerson, Bryan Shaw, Joe Smith and other setup men, middlemen and specialists going to new teams this week.

The bullpen gates figure to keep swinging open, too. Closers Wade Davis and Greg Holland are still available.

"That's probably the one area in which there's been a lot of activity, at least on the free-agent market," Mets general manager Sandy Alderson said.

Cishek and Morrow are going to the Chicago Cubs, who could lose Davis.

"You got to have that great bullpen to play the last game of the year and win it," Cubs manager Joe Maddon said.

GMs, executives and scouts who packed a hotel lobby near

Disney World for three days headed home, eager to continue their holiday shopping.

Big hitters J.D. Martinez, Eric Hosmer and Carlos Santana are in play, along with Lorenzo Cain and Mike Moustakas. Yu Darvish, Jake Arrieta, Alex Cobb and Lance Lynn certainly would help any rotation.

Overall, 12 major league free agents have finalized contracts this offseason. At the same point last year, there had been 42 deals.

A few reasons: Teams spending time trying to land NL MVP Giancarlo Stanton and Japanese two-way player Shohei Ohtani, agent Scott Boras moving deliberately to set the market for his stable of stars, plus clubs willing to wait longer for bargains.

The New York Yankees made the biggest splash at this annual swap shop, acquiring Stanton from Miami. The Marlins, meanwhile, looked adrift under new CEO Derek Jeter, trading away a trio of All-Stars — Mar-

cell Ozuna, Dee Gordon and Stanton — to cut payroll.

The Cardinals were busy, getting Ozuna and Gregerson and moving outfielder Stephen Piscotty to Oakland.

Piscotty is from the Bay Area. His mother was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease in May, and this deal lets him play close to the family home in Pleasanton, Calif.

"You are never making a player trade simply for geographic or sentimental reasons," John Mozeliak, president of baseball operations for the Cardinals, told St. Louis media.

"It had to be something that made sense for us. There were certainly some opportunities to move him elsewhere. When you are looking at how to break a tie, clearly that did play into it," he said.

The much-traveled Rodney has a deal with Minnesota, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press. Known for shooting an imaginary arrow into the sky to celebrate saves, he turns 41

during spring training.

Philadelphia is boosting its bullpen with Pat Neshek and Tommy Hunter, the Nationals are set to keep Brandon Kintzler and the Mets added Anthony Swarzak.

Never can have enough relievers, as teams showed over and over and over in October while watching bullpens get bruised.

"Used and abused," Toronto manager John Gibbons said.

The final piece of official business at the meetings was the Rule 5 draft for players left off 40-man rosters. No surprise, the most interesting name was a reliever.

Anthony Gose, last seen in the majors as a speedy center fielder for the Tigers, is trying to revive his career as a pitcher. The lefty has a fastball in the upper 90s and made 11 relief appearances last season in the low minors for Detroit.

The World Series champion Houston Astros picked Gose, figuring it was worth a \$100,000 gamble.