

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## US troops start withdrawing from Syria

BY JOHN VANDIVER  
AND COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump has begun withdrawing U.S. forces from Syria, the White House announced Wednesday, declaring victory over Islamic State fighters in the country despite ongoing skirmishes and concerns from others in Washington that the terrorist group might mount a comeback.

“Five years ago, ISIS was a very powerful and dangerous force in the Middle East, and now the United States has defeated the territorial caliphate,” White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said in a statement. “We have started returning troops home as we transition to the next phase of this campaign.”

However, Dana White, the Pentagon’s top spokeswoman, said Wednesday in a statement that all territory once held by ISIS in Iraq and Syria has been liberated, though “the campaign against ISIS is not over.” She declined further discussion of the mission, citing “protection and operational security reasons.”

Officials at the Pentagon have spent recent days trying to convince Trump to leave at least some troops in the eastern

portion of Syria where they have been supporting a mostly Kurdish militia, which has been fighting ISIS since 2014, a defense official said Wednesday. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, warned at least some fighting continued in the area, and a rapid, full withdrawal of troops could hurt the progress of the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces.

“There’s still fighting. There’s still ISIS fighters on the ground fighting hard,” the official said, pointing out that U.S. and anti-ISIS coalition forces have conducted airstrikes against ISIS targets in Syria’s Middle Euphrates Valley as recently as Monday.

The coalition reported Wednesday that it conducted more than 200 strikes against ISIS in Syria last week.

Neither Sanders nor White indicated whether all 2,000 U.S. troops would be removed from Syria or what the next phase of the mission would be. However, the defense official said the White House planned to remove all American troops from the fight, confirming reporting by multiple news organizations including Reuters and the Wall Street Journal. It was not clear how quickly they would be removed, the official added.

A Trump tweet Wednesday seemed to

confirm that he intended a complete pull-out. “We have defeated ISIS in Syria, my only reason for being there during the Trump Presidency,” Trump tweeted.

The decision was likely to be welcomed by NATO ally Turkey, but also casts uncertainty over the fate of U.S.-backed Kurdish troops in the region.

Syria and its allies Russia and Iran have repeatedly denounced the U.S. military presence as illegal because it was undertaken without permission from the government in Damascus.

Trump has said he wants to pull U.S. troops out of Syria at some point and the country was not a place where U.S. forces would be permanently camped.

However, his own top military and national security advisers have long indicated the United States would have to maintain troops in eastern Syria to ensure the region was stable enough to thwart an attempted reconstitution of ISIS after its defeat.

In the last three weeks, Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, national security adviser John Bolton and Brett McGurk, the U.S. special envoy to the counter-ISIS campaign, have insisted publicly much work was left to be done by U.S. troops in Syria.

## Brief network outages hit military in South Korea

BY KIM GAMEL  
*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — The U.S. military was hit recently by a computer network outage in South Korea, but the problem has largely been resolved, a spokesman said Wednesday. No cause was given.

The temporary outage occurred in what the military calls Area I and Area II, which includes Seoul and areas close to the border with North Korea.

“Technicians from the 1st Signal Brigade began imme-

diately restorative action and the network is currently at 90 percent,” Yongsan Garrison spokesman Wes Hayes told Stars and Stripes. “Due to the sensitive nature of the network and to maintain cyber security, no further information can be provided.”

The military communications brigade works to support the ability of U.S. Forces Korea and other commands on the divided peninsula “to lead, direct and maneuver available forces during armistice, crisis or war,” Hayes said.

He declined to comment on

the cause or provide more information due to security concerns.

A person familiar with the situation, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue, said the network went down about two weeks ago and was fully offline for about six days before it was mostly restored. The timing could not be confirmed.

The outage comes as fears about the ability of hackers to breach U.S. systems are high.

Last week, National Security Agency official Rob Joyce was quoted as saying that Chinese cyberactivity targeting criti-

cal infrastructure in the United States has risen in recent months. The Wall Street Journal also reported Friday that Chinese hackers have breached Navy contractors to steal missile plans.

North Korean hackers also breached the South Korean military’s computer network in 2016, stealing several classified documents, including jointly developed U.S.-South Korean wartime operational plans, officials in Seoul have said. China and North Korea have denied responsibility for cyberattacks on foreign countries.

# Lone Sailor statue unveiled on Guam

BY CHRISTIAN LOPEZ  
*Stars and Stripes*

The 16th Lone Sailor statue, unveiled this month on Guam, embodies a special relationship between the island, Vietnamese-Americans and the Navy and its sister services, according to the CEO of the U.S. Navy Memorial.

Overlooking the Pacific Ocean at the Ricardo J. Bordallo Governor's Complex in Hagatna, the statue is the farthest west of a series of Lone Sailor statues erected across the country by the nonprofit memorial organization.

The Guam statue recalls the Navy's role in evacuating thousands of refugees who fled South Vietnam as the country fell to the North Vietnamese army at the end of the Vietnam War. The island was a safe harbor for those refugees, many of whom settled in the United States.

"This is where they came through, 111,000 of them," said retired Rear Adm. Frank Thorp, president and CEO of the U.S. Navy Memorial, at the dedication ceremony. "The Lone Sailor will stand proudly and will represent for those people every man and woman who has served in the Navy, who serves in the Navy today or who will serve in the future."

Guam's Lone Sailor is the newest addition at the governor's complex, known as Adelup Point, near the Guam Seal. The statue is surrounded by 19 benches representing each village in the U.S. territory.

"This Lone Sailor will stand the watch at Adelup," according to a statement from Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield, Joint Region Marianas commander. "[It] looks out to that very important point where the Pacific Ocean meets the Philippine Sea, where great battles were generated, and great victories won on behalf of freedom;

and the free and open Indo-Pacific that we cherish has its defense here on Guam."

The first Lone Sailor statue, the work of sculptor Stanley Bleifeld, was dedicated in October 1987 along with the Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C.

The Navy Memorial Statue City Program began in 1997 with a copy of the Lone Sailor placed at Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, Ill., according to the U.S. Navy Memorial website.

The most recent statue — before Saturday's dedication in Guam — was placed in October 2017 at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. It overlooks the USS Arizona Memorial.

"Standing 7½ feet tall, the Lone Sailor has a sea bag by his side — representing the fact that sailors are global citizens, always ready, anytime, anywhere, to protect America's interests," Adm. Harry Harris, head of U.S. Pacific Command, said during a dinner for the statue dedication in Hawaii.

## US official sees increased role for Navy in Europe to counter Russia

BY JOHN VANDIVER  
*Stars and Stripes*

STUTT GART, Germany — The U.S. Navy will need to do more to counter Russia's increasing military activity, the service's number two civilian said Tuesday, a move that could increase the service's profile in a region where the Army and Air Force have stationed large forces for decades.

Given concerns about Russia's investments in its navy and especially its enhanced undersea capabilities, a larger Europe mission for the Navy is possible, Undersecretary of the Navy Thomas Modly said in Washington after returning from a weeklong overseas tour.

"We are going to have to do some things to meet that challenge," he said.

A recent decision to reactivate the Navy's 2nd Fleet, a move to better monitor increased Russian activity in the north Atlantic Ocean, is one way he said the service has adapted.

"My view is we wouldn't have done that if we didn't think that there was going to be a renewed emphasis in that area," Modly said. "How that is going to manifest itself (in Europe), I don't know. That is one of the things we are thinking about."

Modly swept through Norway and Romania to tout the service's mission in regions worried about Russian aggression and eager for more frequent U.S. warship visits as a bulwark.

"I think more so than anything, they are just looking for a firm commitment that we are with them," Modly said.

In Europe, where the Army and Air Force operate several bases, the Navy and Marines have been adding assets. In Norway, 700 Marines are now training year-round to boost their cold-weather fighting skills. And in Romania, a Navy missile defense mission is fully operational, with additional elements in Poland expected to be up and running next year.

## Army snipers test new ghillie suit prototypes

BY WILL MORRIS  
*Stars and Stripes*

A group of Army snipers are finally getting their eyes and hands on prototypes of the Army's new ghillie suit in "bench tests" at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida.

As part of the evaluation exercise, some snipers wore models of the proposed Improved Ghillie System, or IGS, and concealed themselves in forest and arid settings. The other snipers tried to spot them from distances as far away as about 655 feet and as close as about 33 feet.

Staff Sgt. Ricky Labistre, a tester and sniper section team leader with 1st Battalion, 160th Infantry Regiment of the California National Guard, said ghillie suits improve a sniper's ability to remain camouflaged and concealed.

"Anytime we can improve our survivability, it is very welcomed," Labistre said in an Army statement.

The evaluation took place

for three days in November. The Army plans to buy about 3,500 ghillie suits to outfit the approximately 3,300 snipers in the service, the statement said.

The Army is set to replace the current Flame Resistant Ghillie System, which all snipers are currently issued — but rarely use operationally — with the IGS, which is simpler and more modular, Program Executive Office Soldier officials said in a statement.

"The current kit is thick and heavy and comes with a lot of pieces that aren't used," said Maj. WaiWah Ellison, assistant product manager for durable goods. "Soldiers are creating ghillie suits with their own materials to match their personal preference. We want to make the IGS simpler and modular so the snipers will use what is issued to them."

Often ghillie suits are made of camouflage uniforms reinforced with canvas and pieces of rain gear sewn and glued in for reinforcement, with burlap attached all over the suit.

## Trump eager to sign criminal justice measure

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate passed a sweeping criminal justice bill Tuesday that addresses concerns that the nation's war on drugs had led to the imprisonment of too many Americans for non-violent crimes without adequately preparing them for their return to society.

Senate passage of the bill by a vote of 87-12 culminates years of negotiations and gives President Donald Trump a signature policy victory, with the outcome hailed by scores of conservative and liberal advocacy groups. The House is expected to pass the bill this week, sending it to the president for his signature.

The bill gives judges more discretion when sentencing some drug offenders and boosts prisoner rehabilitation efforts. Another provision would allow about 2,600 federal prisoners sentenced for crack cocaine offenses before August 2010 the opportunity to petition for a reduced penalty.

"America is the greatest Country in the world and my job is to fight for ALL citizens, even those who have made mistakes," Trump tweeted moments after the vote.

"This will keep our communities safer, and provide hope and a second chance, to those who earn it. In addition to everything else, billions of dollars will be saved. I look forward to signing this into law!" Trump added.

The vote also thrilled Democrats. Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., said the nation's prisons are full of Americans who are struggling with mental illness and addiction, and who are overwhelmingly poor. He said the nation's criminal justice system "feeds on certain communities and not on others," and said the bill represents a step toward "healing" for those communities.

When the bill appeared to have stalled in recent weeks, Sen. Charles Grassley, the Republican chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, pleaded with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to bring it up for a vote. With Trump's urging, McConnell eventually agreed, and voted for the bill as well.

# Senate to pass bridge bill that ignores wall, avoids shutdown

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Senate prepared Wednesday to pass a short-term spending bill that would keep the government open through the New Year but deny President Donald Trump the money he wanted for his border wall — a stark retreat for Republicans in their final days in control of Congress.

Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., announced the deal on the Senate floor Wednesday to extend government funding through Feb. 8, when Democrats will be in control of the House. Minority Leader Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., said Democrats would support it.

The outcome would temporarily break an impasse that threatened to shutter large portions of the government this weekend and send hundreds of thousands of federal workers home without pay just before

Christmas.

Trump has signaled his support for the plan but "can change his mind if he wants to," said Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, the No. 2 Senate Republican. A senior White House aide, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss the administration's position, said the plan is for Trump to sign the legislation McConnell is introducing. That would represent a major defeat for Trump on his signature issue, the U.S.-Mexico border wall he long insisted Mexico would pay for but has demanded \$5 billion in taxpayer money to fund. And it's an abandonment of his stance from a week ago, when he claimed he would be "proud" to shut down the government to get his wall money.

Trump has oftentimes changed his mind or threatened to veto bills at the last minute, so a shutdown is still possible.

Trump continued to assert over Twitter on Wednesday that the wall would be built, insisting Mexico would pay for it via the renegotiated North America trade deal and that the military would build it.

The legality of such an approach is in question, and Schumer insisted Democrats would not let it happen. It's also unclear how the trade deal would mean Mexico is paying for the wall.

McConnell blamed the outcome on Democrats after they turned down a GOP offer on Tuesday that would have provided \$1.6 billion for border barriers and another \$1 billion for Trump to spend on other immigration priorities.

"Faced with this intransigence — with Democrats' failure to take our borders seriously — Republicans will continue to fulfill our duty to govern," McConnell said.

## Judge's words upend Flynn sentencing

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A federal judge who described himself as disgusted by Michael Flynn's behavior upended a straightforward sentencing hearing, postponing punishment for President Donald Trump's first national security adviser and telling him in a stinging rebuke, "Arguably you sold your country out."

Lawyers for Flynn requested the delay Tuesday after a tongue-lashing from U.S. District Judge Emmet Sullivan raised the prospect that Flynn could spend time behind bars for lying to the FBI about his Russian contacts.

Prosecutors hadn't recommended prison, but the hearing that began with the defendant upbeat took an unexpected turn when the judge said his sentence would take into account

not just Flynn's extensive cooperation with investigators but also the lies the Trump administration official told from the grounds of the White House.

"I can't make any guarantees, but I'm not hiding my disgust, my disdain for this criminal offense," Sullivan said.

The postponement gave Flynn, who had a three-decade military career that included tours in Iraq and Afghanistan and oversight of the Defense Intelligence Agency, a chance to continue cooperating with the government in hopes of staving off prison and proving his value as a witness, including in a foreign-lobbying prosecution brought this week. The possibility of prison had seemed remote for Flynn since prosecutors had praised his cooperation, including 19 meetings with investigators.

But the judge's upbraiding

suggested otherwise and made clear that even defendants like Flynn who have cooperated in special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation may nonetheless be shadowed by the crimes that brought them into court in the first place. The hearing upset what had been a carefully crafted agreement and pushed months into the future a resolution of one of Mueller's signature prosecutions.

"This is a very serious offense. A high-ranking senior official of the government making false statements to the Federal Bureau of Investigation while on the physical premises of the White House," Sullivan said.

He later softened his tone, apologizing for suggesting that Flynn had worked as a foreign agent while in the White House when that other work had actually already ended.

# Surgeon general: Vaping puts teens at risk

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The government's top doctor is taking aim at the best-selling electronic cigarette brand in the U.S., urging swift action to prevent Juul and similar vaping brands from addicting millions of teenagers.

In an advisory Tuesday, Surgeon General Jerome Adams said parents, teachers, health professionals and government officials must take "aggressive steps" to keep children from using e-cigarettes. Federal law bars the sale of e-cigarettes to those under 18.

For young people, "nicotine is dangerous and it can have negative health effects," Adams said in an interview. "It can impact learning, attention and memory, and it can prime the youth brain for addiction."

Federal officials are scrambling to reverse a recent explosion in teen vaping that public health officials fear could undermine decades of declines in tobacco use. An estimated 3.6 million U.S. teens are now using e-cigarettes, representing 1 in 5 high school students, according to the latest federal figures.

Separate survey results released Monday showed twice as many high school students used e-cigarettes this year compared to last year.

E-cigarettes and other vaping devices have been sold in the U.S. since 2007, growing into a \$6.6 billion business. Most devices heat a flavored nicotine solution into an inhalable vapor.

They have been pitched to adult smokers as a less-harmful alternative to cigarettes,

though there's been little research on the long-term health effects or on whether they help people quit. Even more worrisome, a growing body of research suggests that teens who vape are more likely to try regular cigarettes.

Adams singled out Silicon Valley startup Juul. The company leapfrogged over its larger competitors with online promotions portraying their small device as the latest high-tech gadget.

The surgeon general's advisory notes that each Juul cartridge, or pod, contains as much nicotine as a pack of cigarettes.

Additionally, Adams states that Juul's liquid nicotine mixture is specially formulated to give a smoother, more potent nicotine buzz. That effect poses special risks for young people, Adams says.

# State Department backs Turkey missile sale

Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — The U.S. State Department has notified Congress of a proposal to sell the Patriot air and missile defense system to Turkey, a move that signals a key breakthrough with a NATO ally that had been inching closer to Russia.

The potential \$3.5 billion deal for the system, which is manufactured by Raytheon and Lockheed Martin, would help bolster Turkey as it confronts instability in the region, according to a statement by the Defense Security Cooperation Agency posted on Tuesday.

"This proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by improving the secu-

rity of a key NATO Ally on the front lines of the fight against terrorism," according to the statement.

Tensions between the U.S. and Turkey have been heightened in the past few years as the government of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan turned more authoritarian and the two allies disagreed over U.S. support for Kurdish militias in Syria. In recent days, Erdogan threatened to send his forces in Syria toward Kurdish-held areas where U.S. troops are operating, raising the prospect of a battlefield confrontation between NATO's two biggest armed forces.

Trump administration officials seeking better relations were stymied by a disagreement that threatened to turn into a

crisis: Turkey's intention to purchase an advanced Russian anti-aircraft missile system, the S-400 Triumph.

Speaking to reporters in Washington last month, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said his country had wanted to buy Patriot missiles but was never able to get a commitment from Washington. He said there was no going back on the S-400 deal with Moscow but left the door open to buying U.S. hardware in the future.

"It's a big deal, because only a few months ago, analysts were predicting all doom and the end of nearly seven-decades-old U.S.-Turkey relationship," said Soner Cagtagay, the director of the Turkish research program at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

# Trump administration moves to ban bump stocks

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration Tuesday banned bump stocks, the firearm attachments that allow semi-automatic weapons to fire like machine guns and were used during the 2017 Las Vegas shooting that killed 58 people.

The regulation gives gun owners until late March to turn in or destroy the devices. After that, it will be illegal to possess them under the same federal laws that prohibit machine guns.

Bump stocks became a focal point of the gun control debate after they were used in October 2017 when a man opened fire

from his hotel suite into a crowd at a country music concert, killing 58 and injuring hundreds.

The regulation was signed Tuesday by Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker. It will take effect 90 days after it is published in the Federal Register, which is expected to happen Friday.

Bump stock owners will be required to either destroy them or surrender them to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, a senior Justice Department official said. It is impossible to know just how many bump stocks Americans own because the devices aren't traceable, but ATF has estimated that between

280,000 and about 520,000 have been sold since 2010.

Investigators expect most owners will comply with the new rule and ATF will take action against those who don't, the official said. But there's no surefire way to know whether owners are complying. The official briefed reporters on condition of anonymity.

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said President Donald Trump was "once again fulfilling a promise he made to the American people." Trump had promised the ban in March, saying the devices "turn legal weapons into illegal machines."

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Cat, recipient of \$19K kidney transplant, dies

**MD** BALTIMORE — The 18-year-old Baltimore cat who received a \$19,000 kidney transplant just over a year ago has died.

Stanley the cat's owner, Betsy Boyd, told The Baltimore Sun she made the decision to put him to sleep Friday. She said he became ill a few weeks ago, and was then diagnosed with peritonitis, a severe inflammation of the abdomen.

The newspaper had profiled Stanley and Boyd in March, reporting she spent 41 percent of her salary on Stanley's transplant. The newspaper reported this week that in total, Boyd has invested around \$30,000 in Stanley.

She has five other cats, including Stanley's kidney donor, whom she adopted.

## Diner finds pearl in his lunch at oyster bar

**NY** NEW YORK — A lucky diner said he happened upon a pearl while eating an oyster dish at a famous New York City restaurant.

Rick Antosh, 66, was at lunch with a friend and ordered his usual at the Grand Central Oyster Bar on Dec. 5 — a \$14.75 pan roast, which includes six oysters. Antosh told the New York Post that he felt a small object rolling around his mouth after diving into the dish, and feared he had damaged a tooth.

The Edgewater, N.J., resident said it turned out to be a pea-sized pearl.

## Teen shot by troopers after fleeing on horse

**KS** SMITH CENTER — Authorities said investigators shot and wounded a 15-year-old after he attacked a

woman, fled on horseback and then fired on law enforcement in Kansas.

The Kansas Bureau of Investigation said Smith County sheriff's deputies responded to a rural home on Saturday where a 66-year-old woman reported being restrained, beaten and choked. She was taken to a hospital.

The bureau said the teen fled on horseback. Kansas Highway Patrol troopers later found the armed teen and spent a few hours trying to apprehend him. Investigators say the teen fired at troopers, and two of the troopers returned fire, striking the teen.

He was flown to a Nebraska hospital.

## Garbage piles up after trash plant breakdown

**CT** HARTFORD — Equipment failures at a Connecticut garbage plant are causing trash to pile up.

The Hartford Courant reported a regional trash facility in Hartford has been unable to burn refuse for weeks and has been hauling garbage out of state at a high cost.

The South Meadows facility collects trash and recycling from dozens of area communities and converts it into electricity.

Thomas Kirk, head of the state's Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority, said it could take until mid-January to get at least one of two out-of-commission turbines back online.

## Man with 16 DUIs gets prison time

**WI** EAU CLAIRE — A Wisconsin man with 16 drunken driving convictions in three states is headed to prison.

Bradley Armstrong, 63, of

Eau Claire, was sentenced Friday to four years in state prison to be followed by three years of extended supervision.

Judge John Manydeeds told Armstrong that he was a dangerous person and that the number of convictions was "staggering." He said Armstrong needs to be off the streets to protect the public.

Armstrong has drunken driving convictions dating to 1989 in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Massachusetts.

## Baby Jesus once again stolen from mangers

**TN** KINGSPORT — Two baby Jesus figurines have once again been snatched from their Tennessee mangers.

One city's downtown Nativity scene has lost its baby Jesus for the second year in a row. After the figure's theft last year, the people responsible for the Nativity scene on Kingsport's Church Circle tethered the figure to the display.

But the Kingsport Times-News cited a Kingsport police report that says it nonetheless "appears someone was able to steal Jesus" Friday night or Saturday morning. The figure had an estimated value of \$1,200 and had been on display for less than a week.

## Police: Man tried to pay for meal with pot

**FL** PORT ST. LUCIE — Police in Florida said a 23-year-old man went through a McDonald's drive-thru and tried to pay for his order with a bag of marijuana.

News outlets reported Port St. Lucie police said the fast food worker denied the trade and Anthony Andrew Gallagher drove off, only to return again a short time later. Police arrested him on charges of marijuana possession and driv-

ing under the influence.

Police were alerted to Gallagher's offer early Sunday morning and got a description of him from the worker.

## Dogs find woman who crashed into ravine

**MS** VICKSBURG — Several dogs in Vicksburg are credited with finding a woman who had crashed into a ravine and been reported missing.

The Vicksburg Post reported Monday that Blackie, Spottie and a third dog heard Corrine Palmer, 76, crying for help. Warren County sheriff's office reports say Palmer didn't attend an appointment that morning and was reported missing.

She had failed to drive around a curve, and her car flipped into a 40-foot deep ravine. She was able to get out of the car, but couldn't scale the sides of the ravine.

Vicksburg Police Lt. Johnnie Edwards said he was searching for Palmer and noticed the dogs gathered at the ravine.

## Police: Teen wrecks stolen U-Haul in chase

**LA** GRETNA — Police in the New Orleans area said a teenager driving a stolen U-Haul pickup truck led officers on a chase that ended in a six-vehicle crash.

News outlets cited New Orleans police spokesman Juan Barnes and Gretna police Operations Commander Russell Lloyd as saying no one was seriously injured. Lloyd said the 17-year-old boy was arrested after the pursuit Sunday afternoon.

Lloyd said the stolen truck was spotted via crime recognition cameras, and that the driver fled when a Gretna officer tried to stop it.

From wire reports

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# Furman enjoying ranking, perfect mark

Associated Press

GREENVILLE, S.C. — Furman forward Clay Mounce has a simple question in the team video before the Paladins take the court each home game: “Haven’t you heard of us?”

Not many college basketball fans have.

Though it’s a question fewer people are asking about Furman, which is in the Top 25 for the first time. The undefeated Paladins (12-0) have road wins over last year’s Final Four participant Loyola Chicago and defending national champ Villanova.

Nonetheless, most college basketball fans probably haven’t bought into the plucky Paladins yet and Furman forward Matt Rafferty said with a grin, “I don’t know if they will.”

But Furman, which won two games last week and still dropped a spot to No. 24, has an opportunity for another résumé-building road win when the Paladins travel to LSU on Friday night for their final

game before starting Southern Conference play.

“It’s a big one,” Furman coach Bob Richey said.

The Paladins are among nine undefeated teams left among 353 Division I programs through Tuesday night. They made their first-ever appearance in the Top 25 earlier this month and see LSU as a next step toward ending a 38-year NCAA Tournament drought.

Richey expects his players will be ready for the moment, as they were when they trailed Loyola Chicago by 13 points in the second half and won 60-58 on Mounce’s one-handed jam with 1.6 seconds to go. Or when they opened overtime at Villanova with a 7-0 run in the 76-68 win.

“In life, most of the time, when you get big opportunities, it still comes back to the simplest fundamentals,” Richey said. “There’s not going to be anything that we’ve got to go do different than what we’ve done in order to try and play

our best.”

Here’s a quick introduction to Furman basketball:

## The coach

Richey, 35, joined Furman as an assistant in 2011 and earned the head coaching job after the 2017 season after former coach Niko Medved left for Drake. Ever since, Richey’s led a revival at Furman, which hasn’t enjoyed this sort of basketball attention since the 1970s, when it played in six NCAA Tournaments from 1971-80.

## Not a fluke

Furman tied its school record with 23 victories last season, Richey’s first as a full-time coach. The Paladins are already more than halfway to that mark.

## The players

■ Jordan Lyons, a junior, is the team’s leading scorer who had 54 points in defeat-

ing North Greenville earlier this season. He’s joined in the backcourt by Andrew Brown, who along with Rafferty, are Furman’s only two seniors in its main rotation.

■ Rafferty is a 6-foot-8 forward — Furman has no players taller than 6-8 — who’s adept and relentless in post, whether it’s backing down opponents for a layup or grabbing a rebound to keep the Paladins’ possession alive. He’s had six games with double-figure points and rebounds this season, including 15 points and 17 rebounds at Villanova.

■ Mounce is a dynamic, 6-7 sophomore comfortable with playing inside and outside. His cut toward the basket from the three-point line sprung him for the game-winning dunk at Loyola Chicago. He had six of Furman’s 17 three-pointers this past Saturday in the blow-out win over UNC Wilmington.

It all has added up to high expectations for Furman basketball.

## College basketball roundup

# Top-ranked Kansas just too much for South Dakota

Associated Press

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Kansas coach Bill Self hoped from the moment Charlie Moore arrived as a transfer from Cal that the talented shooting guard would provide the Jayhawks a lift off the bench.

He finally did Tuesday night.

Moore knocked down six three-pointers and finished with 18 points, Dedric Lawson added 16 points and 14 rebounds, and the top-ranked Jayhawks pulled away over the final 15 minutes for an 89-53 win over plucky but overmatched South Dakota on Tuesday night.

“That’s what we thought all along, that he was going to be our marksman,” Self said. “It hadn’t happened yet but tonight

it did.”

Freshman forward David McCormack added a career-best 12 points off the bench for the Jayhawks (10-0), making big strides while Lawson was on the bench in foul trouble and helping soak up minutes with Udoka Azubuike sidelined with a sprained ankle.

The Jayhawks are hopeful Azubuike will be back by the start of conference play next month.

“It felt good that I could contribute to the team,” said McCormack, a five-star prospect from venerable Oak Hill Academy in Virginia. “I got more minutes so I got more opportunities.”

Stanley Umude scored a game-high 28 points to lead the Coyotes (6-6), who have never defeated a ranked team

in seven tries. Tyler Peterson added 15 points, and leading scorer Trey Burch-Manning was held to two points on 1-for-5 shooting before fouling out.

“Their size obviously bothered us,” South Dakota coach Todd Lee said. “I was disappointed at halftime, thought it could have been a game. And the second half we didn’t compete.”

**No. 2 Duke 101, Princeton 50:** RJ Barrett continued his rookie-season scoring rush, finishing with 27 points to help the host Blue Devils beat the Tigers.

**No. 8 Gonzaga 89, Texas-Arlington 55:** Rui Hachimura had 20 points and 11 rebounds, and the host Bulldogs beat the Mavericks, ending a two-game skid that toppled them from No.

1 in the AP Top 25.

**No. 14 Buffalo 71, Syracuse 59:** CJ Massinburg scored 25 points, Jeremy Harris added 18 and the Bulls rallied past the host Orange to remain unbeaten.

**No. 15 Ohio State 75, Youngstown State 56:** Kaleb Wesson had a career-high 31 points as the host Buckeyes overcame a terrible start.

**No. 20 Marquette 92, North Dakota 66:** Markus Howard scored 26 points, including 19 over the final 10:22 of the first half to help stabilize the host Golden Eagles after a sloppy start.

**No. 23 Iowa 78, Western Carolina 60:** Tyler Cook scored 18 points, Luka Garza added 15 and the host Hawkeyes won their their straight.

# Chargers have 7 selected for Pro Bowl

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Los Angeles Chargers placed seven players in the Pro Bowl, including safety Derwin James, one of six rookies across the league to make the game.

James, a first-round draft choice, will be joined on the AFC squad by veteran quarterback Philip Rivers, wide receiver Keenan Allen, running back Melvin Gordon, defensive end Melvin Ingram, center Mike Pouncey and special-teamer Adrian Phillips for the game, which will be played Jan. 27 in Orlando, Fla. James and Phillips are the only starters.

Rivers is a backup to Kansas City's Patrick Mahomes, one of 29 first-time Pro Bowlers. That, of course, includes all the rookies: James, Giants running back Saquon Barkley, Seahawks punter Michael Dickson, Broncos running back Phillip Lindsay, Indianapolis guard Quenton Nelson and Cleveland cornerback Denzel Wads. Lindsay is an undrafted

player.

New England's Tom Brady is the other AFC quarterback, making it for the 14th time. Noticeably missing is the Colts' Andrew Luck.

New Orleans, led by quarterback Drew Brees, Dallas and Chicago paced the NFC with five players each. Brees is the starter, backed up by Green Bay's Aaron Rodgers and the Rams' Jared Goff.

Buffalo, Oakland and Tampa Bay had no Pro Bowl selections.

Pittsburgh and Kansas City each had six players chosen, including such first-timers as Steelers running back James Conner and Mahomes, both having breakthrough years.

Cleveland has a first overall draft choice in the game — not Baker Mayfield, but 2017 top pick Myles Garrett at defensive end.

"Football is a team game and you can't do it on your own," said Garrett, who leads the Browns with 12½ sacks. "I'm happy to

be able to share this experience with Denzel because this honor is really a testament to our entire defense."

Among the perennial AFC choices returning to the game are Houston DE J.J. Watt, Pittsburgh WR Antonio Brown, Baltimore guard Marshal Yanda and safety Eric Weddle, Cincinnati DT Geno Atkins and Denver LB Von Miller.

"To get recognized by your peers, the coaches and the fans, it means a lot," Weddle said. "It's always special to put in the hard work and to try your best and then get recognized. The Pro Bowl is something I never take for granted, and I'm pretty stoked about it. Each year you just work hard and try to play your very best. To receive recognition for what you do on the field, even if it may not show up in other areas, is awesome."

For the NFC, frequent repeaters include Atlanta WR Julio Jones and C Alex Mack, Dallas tackle Tyron Smith, inside LBs Luke Kuechly of Carolina

and Bobby Wagner of Seattle, Arizona CB Patrick Peterson, Rams DT Aaron Donald and Bears LB Khalil Mack.

One of the newcomers, Chicago DT Akiem Hicks, sounded overwhelmed by the honor.

"I have played the game of football my entire life and this is the greatest accolade I've ever achieved," he said.

There will be a brother combination at center for the AFC as Maurkice Pouncey of Pittsburgh is the starter ahead of Mike Pouncey.

The Jets, despite a 4-10 record, have three Pro Bowlers in safety Jamal Adams, kicker Jason Myers and return specialist Andre Roberts — all first-timers.

Pro Bowl coaching staffs will be from the losing teams in the AFC and NFC divisional playoffs with the best regular-season records. Each player on the winning Pro Bowl team receives \$67,000, while each player on the losing squad earns \$34,000.

## Williams making strong case to be Browns' coach

Associated Press

BEREA, Ohio — The Browns' playoff odds remain immense, nearly impossible.

Gregg Williams' chances, on the other hand, have improved.

Since being elevated to Cleveland's interim coach when Hue Jackson was fired on Oct. 29, Williams, the team's in-your-grill defensive coordinator, has guided the Browns to four wins — two on the road — and has a team that didn't win once last season playing meaningful December games, believing anything is possible.

Seven weeks ago, Williams was a long-shot candidate. He now looks like a serious one.

"He deserves credit for a lot of stuff that's going on now, just the fire and the energy that he's bringing to this team has been incredible," Browns wide receiver Breshad Perriman said Monday, two days after a 17-16

win in Denver. "I feel like you can't put a limit for the amount of credit you give him."

Williams has won over his players, who feel his attention to detail and demand for accountability have brought out the best in them. He's also endeared himself to a segment of battle-scarred Cleveland fans, who would hate to see Williams leave and prosper elsewhere after his successful substitute stint.

General manager John Dorsey, who is heading the team's coaching search, will interview Williams for the full-time job once the season ends. Until then, the 60-year-old Williams won't discuss his future.

The gregarious coach loves to talk — about anything. But with two games to go, Williams is not going to address his interest in coaching the Browns (6-7-1) in 2019 and beyond.

"I appreciate to answer that, and all honesty, I do not think it is fair to the players or to anybody here," he said. "The most important thing is making sure that these guys understand how we continue to win and how we get ready for the Bengals (on Sunday). Really. When they see the mindset is that way — that is the way that my mindset has always been. We will talk about that at the end."

There is no denying Williams' impact in less than two months.

The Browns were in shambles when he took over, headed toward further disgrace. But Williams has helped salvage this season — Cleveland is technically still alive for a wildcard spot — while providing a glimpse of a future that hasn't looked nearly this promising in years.

Williams has more wins in

six weeks than Jackson got in 40.

"I just think it was just more attention to detail, and just us in the locker room just not letting all the outside elements affect us and affect how we play," said safety Jabrill Peppers. "It would have been easy to crumble and blame everything else that was going on, but we stuck together, fought it out and we're on the cusp of having our first winning season around here in a long time, so everything falls how it may."

It's possible that Dorsey, who recently celebrated his one-year anniversary with the Browns, already has his next coach in mind — his wish list may include former Packers coach Mike McCarthy and Oklahoma's Lincoln Riley — and there may be nothing Williams can do to dissuade him from selecting another coach.

## NHL roundup

# Flyers goaltender Hart wins NHL debut

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Carter Hart made 22 saves in his NHL debut and Shayne Gostisbehere and James van Riemsdyk each had a goal and an assist as the Philadelphia Flyers defeated the Detroit Red Wings 3-2 on Tuesday night and made interim coach Scott Gordon a winner in his first game.

Radko Gudas also scored for Philadelphia, which snapped a four-game losing streak.

The Flyers were playing their first game since head coach Dave Hakstol was fired on Monday, a move that capped a tumultuous few weeks. General manager Ron Hextall was fired last month and new GM Chuck Fletcher ended Hakstol's four-

year tenure after a 1-4 road trip was punctuated by Saturday's 5-1 loss at Vancouver. The Flyers entered the game last in the Eastern Conference with 28 points.

Fletcher promoted Gordon from the Flyers' AHL Lehigh Valley affiliate.

Dennis Cholowski and Jacob de la Rose scored for Detroit, which has lost four in a row and five of six.

**Maple Leafs 7, Devils 2:** John Tavares, Auston Matthews and Patrick Marleau scored in the opening 13:38 to lead visiting Toronto past New Jersey.

**Rangers 3, Ducks 1:** Kevin Hayes scored on a short-handed breakaway with 40 seconds remaining and host New York

rallied to beat Anaheim.

**Panthers 5, Sabres 2:** Evgenii Dadonov had two goals and an assist to pace visiting Florida in its win over Buffalo.

**Sharks 4, Wild 0:** Logan Couture scored twice and Martin Jones made 26 saves for his first shutout this season and the 20th of his career in visiting San Jose's win over Minnesota.

**Blackhawks 2, Predators 1:** Cam Ward made 30 saves in his first start since Corey Crawford was sidelined by a concussion, helping host Chicago top Nashville.

**Stars 2, Flames 0:** Ben Bishop got help from backup Anton Khudobin in a combined shutout and host Dallas beat Pacific Division-leading Calgary.

**Islanders 3, Coyotes 1:**

Robin Lehner stopped 35 shots, Anthony Beauvillier scored his fourth goal in five games and visiting New York beat struggling Arizona.

**Blues 4, Oilers 1:** Pat Maroon was credited with the tiebreaking goal following a replay review early in the third period, and visiting St. Louis went on to beat Edmonton.

**Lightning 5, Canucks 2:** Nikita Kucherov had a goal and an assist to reach 50 points this season and lead visiting Tampa Bay past Vancouver.

**Kings 4, Jets 1:** Austin Wagner scored twice and host Los Angeles snapped a four-game losing streak by beating Winnipeg.

## NBA roundup

# Nance's tip-in at buzzer propels Cavaliers past Pacers

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Larry Nance Jr. put himself in perfect position to make the final play Tuesday night.

After outwrestling Victor Oladipo in front of the basket, the Cleveland Cavaliers center waited patiently as he anticipated Rodney Hood's errant layup then threw up his right hand and barely beat the buzzer.

Nance finished with 15 points, a career-high 16 rebounds, six assists and the first game-winning shot of his pro career to give the Cavaliers a rare 92-91 road victory. It ended Indiana's seven-game winning streak.

"I told Hood to put the ball up on the rim with a couple seconds left so I can see if I could do something with it," Nance said. "He made a good move and did exactly that. I was lucky enough to get a hand on it."

The shot set off a wild scene in which Cavs players began mobbing Nance before the replay review confirmed the

call. Even some of Cleveland's injured players joined the celebration.

Inside the Pacers locker room players watched the replay, which appeared to show Nance tossing Oladipo to the ground and lamented the lack of a whistle.

Still, Pacers coach Nate McMillan knew it should never have come down to that play. Indiana came into the game as the league's hottest team but lacked the intensity, passion and precision that had defined the first part of this season.

On a night six Cavs players scored in double figures, including Hood, who had 17 points, Indiana shot a dismal 39.8 percent from the field, was 4-for-22 on three-pointers and lost for the first time this season when allowing fewer than 97 points.

With 9.5 seconds left, the Pacers still led 91-90 with Oladipo shooting two free throws.

But when he missed both, the

Cavs got one more chance after calling timeout — and Nance made them pay.

"Larry was terrific, even beyond the putback," Cleveland coach Larry Drew said. "I thought he did a phenomenal job."

**Nets 115, Lakers 110:** D'Angelo Russell had 22 points and a career high-tying 13 assists against his former team, and host Brooklyn ran the NBA's longest winning streak to six games by beating Los Angeles.

Joe Harris added 19 points and Spencer Dinwiddie scored 18 for the Nets, who last won six in a row from March 25 to April 3, 2015. Rondae Hollis-Jefferson finished with 17 points and Jared Dudley made some big baskets down the stretch to score 13.

LeBron James bounced back from his lowest-scoring game of the season with 36 points, 13 rebounds and eight assists.

**Nuggets 126, Mavericks**

**118:** Nikola Jokic had 32 points and 16 rebounds, Jamal Murray dished out a career-high 15 assists and host Denver extended its home winning streak to seven games by beating Dallas.

At 21-9, the Nuggets matched the 1976-77 squad for the best start through 30 games in the franchise's NBA history. They also remain on top of the Western Conference by percentage points over Golden State. This is rarefied air for the Nuggets: The last time they had played more than 25 games and were alone in first place in the conference was March 1977.

**Hawks 118, Wizards 110:** Jeremy Lin scored 12 of his 16 points in the final period and Atlanta overcame Bradley Beal's 29 points for visiting Washington.

Seven players scored in double figures to help the last-place Hawks (7-23) stop a three-game skid. John Collins had 20 points and 13 rebounds.