

# STARS AND STRIPES®

Tuesday, February 7, 2017

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Missile-defense system test off Hawaii a success

BY TYLER HLAVAC  
*Stars and Stripes*

A new missile-defense system developed by the United States and Japan destroyed a target missile during a test off the coast of Hawaii on Friday, a Missile Defense Agency statement said.

The intercept of a medium-range ballistic missile, launched from the Pacific Missile Range Facility in Hawaii, was a first for the system, which had conducted two previous flight tests, the statement said.

The USS John Paul Jones, an Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer, detected and tracked the target with its onboard radar, then shot it down with the Standard Missile-3 Block IIA, the statement said.

Vice Adm. Jim Syring, MDA's director, called the system vital to the security of the U.S. and Japan. "Today's test demonstrates a critical milestone in the cooperative development of the SM-3 Block IIA missile and will ultimately improve our ability to defend against increasing ballistic missile threats around the world," he said in the statement.

The interceptor, designed to shoot down medium- and intermediate-range ballistic missiles, is compatible with the Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense System on board many Navy ships, several of which are based in Japan, the statement said.

Ship-based missile interceptors are part of U.S. defense plans in the event of an attack on the United States or its allies by North Korea, which has continued to develop its ballistic-missile program despite United Nations sanctions.

The SM-3 Block IIA, which has larger rockets and a larger warhead than its predecessor, is also scheduled to deploy at sea and on land in Poland in 2018, U.S. defense contractor Raytheon said on its website.

## Military leaders say budget caps crippling armed forces

BY TRAVIS J. TRITTEN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The chairman of the House Armed Services Committee said Tuesday that a new Congress and president could begin repairing the military this year as uniformed leaders again painted a grim picture of depleted forces.

Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-Texas, pointed to Congress' defense spending caps and its inability to pass timely budgets, and vice chiefs of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force backed that view in testimony, saying forces are stretched far too thin and hamstrung by the uncertainty of funding.

Only three out of 58 of the Army's brigade combat teams are ready to "fight tonight," and 53 percent of Navy aircraft are not ready to fly today, according to testimony.

The Air Force and Marine Corps also described shrinking, ill-maintained and less ready forces.

The Armed Services Committee under Thornberry is embarking on another effort this year to boost military funding, and President Donald Trump has made a defense buildup a priority. The Pentagon gave Congress an informal proposal Tuesday to supplement this year's defense spending by \$30 billion for aircraft, armored vehicles and training, according to The Associated Press.

But the defense caps are set to hold down defense spending again this year and partisan divisions on Capitol Hill are likely to make a solution difficult.

"I continue to be concerned — and sometimes even disturbed — by evidence that is accumulating on the damage inflicted upon our military in recent years and the stresses on the force," Thornberry said. "But now with a new administration and a new Congress, we have the opportunity to begin the repairs."

Democrats on the Armed Services Committee, which plays a key role in crafting the defense budget, joined the call to lift caps on defense that are often called sequestration.

Rep. Jim Cooper, D-Tenn., told the military leaders who testified Tuesday that the limits on funding the military are one of the biggest threats to U.S. security.

"Another way to put this is, the worst enemy we face is ourselves," Cooper said. "The problem is not yours, it is ours. We should solve this se-

questration problem."

In the Pentagon's informal proposal to Congress, the Army is seeking \$8.2 billion to keep steady troop numbers and buy helicopters; the Air Force wants \$6.2 billion for F-35 Joint Strike Fighters and airmen; the Navy wants \$12 billion for ships, aircraft and missiles; and the Marine Corps is seeking \$4.2 billion to pay for new weapons, according to the AP.

Thornberry told reporters Tuesday he had not seen the proposal.

The Trump administration is expected to make a formal request for supplemental defense spending in March and will later send a full annual budget request to Congress.

The caps on spending are set to hold the base defense budget for 2018 at \$549 billion, but Thornberry and his counterpart on the Senate Armed Services Committee, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., have proposed a \$640 billion base budget.

The caps were passed as part of the Budget Control Act in 2011 and were designed to reduce federal spending at the urging of Republican fiscal hawks, but they have since become widely criticized.

A voting bloc of House Republicans called the Freedom Caucus has supported the caps — which also affect domestic federal spending — and is seen as the main roadblock to getting a repeal passed.

The military brass has spent the past two years warning about readiness. But Congress has been unable to repeal the caps and has continued to pass temporary budgets that throw a wrench into Pentagon planning.

Gen. Daniel Allyn, vice chief of staff of the Army, said the service is "outraged, outgunned, outdated" and — under budget caps this year — will have to reduce its size, putting the lives and safety of soldiers at risk.

"The most important actions you can take — steps that will have both positive and lasting impact — will be to immediately repeal the 2011 Budget Control Act," Allyn said in prepared testimony.

The Air Force has shrunk to its smallest size and now faces a shortage of 1,555 pilots — 723 of those are fighter pilots — and 3,400 maintainers, said Gen. Stephen Wilson, the service's vice chief of staff.

## At least 21 killed in blast outside Afghan top court

BY PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN  
*Stars and Stripes*

KABUL, Afghanistan — A suicide attack outside Afghanistan's Supreme Court on Tuesday killed at least 21 people and wounded more than 40 others, including children, officials said.

Kabul police said the attacker, who was on foot, detonated a suicide vest in the court's parking lot as employees were leaving for the day. The lot is adjacent to a residential area.

"It was a mess. Everything was destroyed," said Shafiqullah Rahimi, who works nearby at the Ministry of Urban Development. "When I went outside, I saw bodies in the parking lot."

Of the 21 people killed, nine were women, Health Ministry spokesman Wahidullah Majorooh said. He said two children were among those injured. Ismail Kawoosi, the Health Ministry's public affairs chief, said nearly all of those who were injured and taken to the hospital were in stable condition.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, but the Taliban often target government employees.

"I condole with the families of the victims in today's terrorist attack in Kabul," Afghan Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah wrote on Twitter. "The blood of our people isn't cheap and won't be wasted."

### Militants deride strike in recording

Just days after a covert U.S.-led raid against al-Qaida's branch in Yemen that left a Navy SEAL dead, the terrorist group's leader, Qassim al-Rimi, released an audio recording deriding the outcome of the operation, calling it a "slap" across President Donald Trump's face.

The 11-minute recording was posted online Saturday and translated by the SITE Intelligence Group. Al-Rimi claimed that the Jan. 28 joint U.S. and Emirati raid on the village of Yaklaa left "dozens" of Americans killed and wounded and that "they found no other alternative but to destroy their own planes so that it would not be proof of their scandal." The Pentagon acknowledged the death of Chief Petty Officer William "Ryan" Owens. Five servicemembers were wounded from hostile fire and a hard landing by a Marine MV-22 Osprey that had been sent in to recover casualties. The Osprey was unable to take off and was subsequently destroyed by an airstrike so that it would not fall into al-Qaida's hands.

Al-Rimi also said 14 men and 11 women and children were killed in the raid. The Pentagon has said 14 militants were killed and that it is assessing the number of civilian casualties.

From The Washington Post

# At CENTCOM, president defends security moves

*From wire reports*

As legal action loomed regarding his now-frozen immigration order, President Donald Trump offered an impassioned defense of his actions Monday, telling military leaders that he was determined to keep "radical Islamic terrorists" from striking the homeland.

"We need strong programs so that people that love us and want to love our country and will end up loving our country are allowed in, not people who want to destroy us and destroy our country," Trump said during remarks at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Fla.

Trump reaffirmed his support for NATO before military leaders and troops and laced his speech with references to homeland security amid the court battle over his travel ban on people from seven majority-Muslim countries, The Associated Press reported. He did not directly mention the case now before a federal appeals court after a lower court temporarily suspended the ban.

"Freedom, security and justice will prevail," Trump added. "We will defeat radical Islamic terrorism and we will not allow it to take root in our country. We're not going to allow it."

Trump once dismissed the trans-Atlantic military alliance as "obsolete," and said he would decide whether to

protect NATO countries against Russian aggression based on whether those countries "have fulfilled their obligations to us."

Trump appeared at a base that is headquarters of both the U.S. Central Command and U.S. Special Operations Command, a major nerve center against terrorism. His remarks served as part pep talk, as he promised "beautiful new equipment" for the military, as well as a recounting of what drove his highly controversial order to temporarily bar refugees and people from seven Muslim majority countries from entering the United States.

"We're up against an enemy that celebrates death and totally worships destruction," Trump said. "You've seen that. ISIS is on a campaign of genocide, committing atrocities across the world. Radical Islamic terrorists are determined to strike our homeland."

Trump recounted a series of terrorist attacks in the United States, including the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, the Boston marathon bombing and the San Bernardino mass shooting. And Trump said terrorist attacks are rampant across Europe.

"All over Europe, it's happening. It's gotten to a point where it's not even being reported," Trump said.

## Trump: Media underreports terrorism

*Associated Press*

MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — President Donald Trump is accusing the media of deliberately minimizing coverage of the threat posed by the Islamic State group, saying news outlets "have their reasons" for not reporting what he described as a "genocide" underway at the hands of the group.

The president did not immediately offer evidence to support his claim, made during the new commander in chief's visit Monday to the headquarters for U.S. Central Command.

Later, the White House released a list of 78 attacks it described as "executed or inspired by" the Islamic State group since September 2014. The White House

said "most" on the list did not get sufficient media attention, although it did not explain how it defined the term.

Some of the incidents on the list received widespread attention and deep reporting.

Trump, who has made relentless criticism of the media a hallmark of his presidency, did not explain why he thinks news outlets minimize attention on such attacks.

Later, White House spokesman Sean Spicer tried to tone down the president's remarks, saying it was a question of balance: "Like a protest gets blown out of the water, and yet an attack or a foiled attack doesn't necessarily get the same coverage."

# Senate committee approves Shulkin nomination for VA

BY NIKKI WENTLING  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — A Senate panel quickly and easily approved Tuesday the nomination of David Shulkin to be Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Members of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee gathered for a fast vote off the Senate floor Tuesday afternoon. They voted 14-0 to approve Shulkin's nomination, with no dissent. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., had not decided by the time of the vote on Tuesday.

Shulkin still needs to be confirmed by the full Senate. Committee Chairman Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., asked the Senate leadership to expedite a floor vote on Shulkin's confirmation so he could quickly take the helm at the VA.

Shulkin, 57, has worked as the VA's undersecretary of health since 2015. In the position, he oversaw the Veterans Health Administration, which covers about 1,700 facilities nationwide and served about 9 million veterans in 2016.

President Donald Trump named him as his pick on Jan.

11. His choice that was met with praise by the country's largest veterans organizations.

The Senate committee questioned Shulkin during a mostly amiable confirmation hearing Feb. 1, during which Shulkin deflected claims the VA would become privatized in the Trump administration.

Shulkin also said he would reform the Choice Program — the process through which veterans can receive care from the private sector — and streamline how veterans appeal decisions on their claims for disability and pension compensation.

The leading Democrat on the committee, Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., announced his support for Shulkin the day after the hearing.

"He has pledged to reform the Choice Program, oppose privatizing the VA and address the challenge facing rural veterans," Tester said in a written statement. "[W]e will hold him accountable on behalf of all veterans to the pledges he made during his confirmation hearing."

The conservative-leaning advocacy group Concerned Veter-

ans for America said Tuesday that they want to hear more details about Shulkin's plans to manage care for veterans in the private sector.

The group, backed by billionaires Charles and David Koch, has advocated for significant change within the department, including transferring management of VA facilities to a government-chartered nonprofit.

One of CVA's senior advisers, Darin Selnick, was part of Trump's transition team and is working at the VA as an adviser.

Tester warned Shulkin during the confirmation hearing that his vision for VA reform would contrast with Trump's.

"You'll have to deal with a president [who] has positions that are in stark contrast to the positions you have taken," Tester told Shulkin. "Sooner or later, you will come to a crossroads, where you'll have to pursue what you think is best for veterans or what the president tells you is best for veterans."

Shulkin responded that he and Trump agreed that "we need to do a lot better for our veterans."

## Pence casts tiebreaking DeVos vote

*The Washington Post*

WASHINGTON — Vice President Mike Pence cast the deciding vote to confirm Betsy DeVos as education secretary Tuesday after opponents failed amid a groundswell of opposition to produce the additional "no" vote required to sink her nomination.

DeVos was confirmed by a vote of 51-50 at 12:30 p.m., with Pence breaking a 50-50 tie — the first time a vice president has cast a Senate vote since Dick Cheney helped break a tie on a procedural matter in 2008.

DeVos "understands that teachers, students, parents, school boards and state and local governments — not Washington bureaucrats — are best suited to make education decisions for our kids," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said Tuesday. "I know she's committed to improving our education system so that every child has a brighter future."

As expected, Sens. Susan Collins, R-Maine, and Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, joined the Democratic caucus to oppose DeVos' confirmation.

Tuesday's vote is expected to usher in a period of intense and unified Democratic opposition to Trump's Cabinet nominees, including those chosen to lead the departments of Justice, Health and Human Services, Labor and Treasury — a historic rebuke of a first-term president's Cabinet selections.

Nodding to thousands of constituents' fury over Trump's nominees, Democrats held a 24-hour protest against DeVos on the Senate floor prior to Tuesday's vote, charging throughout the night and early hours that the Republican billionaire power broker and charter-school advocate lacked the experience to lead the U.S. public school system.

## 'Fat' man had 130-pound tumor

*The Washington Post*

They said it was only fat.

But there was 130 pounds of it, as heavy as a newborn giraffe. What they said was fat descended from his stomach.

While Roger Logan sat in an armchair, as he spent too much of the last decade, the mass rested on the floor. When he walked, he described a pendulous and cumbersome sensation, Logan told ABC 23 in a recent interview from a California hospital bed, as though three cement bags had been tied around his neck. It kept the 57-year-old Mississippi

man out of the antique store he used to run and away from the shores where he fished, he said to the Bakersfield Californian newspaper.

No matter which physician he asked, the explanation for the weight remained the same. "They said, 'You're just fat,'" Logan said in the ABC 23 interview. On Facebook, Logan wrote that the mass was too large to be examined through a conventional CT scan or other test.

It would not be until after surgery that Logan was told the 130-pound was not, in fact, just fat. It was a tumor. Vipul Dev, a

surgeon at Bakersfield Memorial Hospital, in Bakersfield, proposed to the newspaper that the 130-pound mass began as an ingrown hair. It was possible the hair follicle became infected, and the tumor swelled to immense size as new blood vessels fed into the site.

At 130 pounds, the tumor was massive — but not the largest ever recorded. In 2014, Beijing doctors excised a 240-pound tumor from the back of a man with neurofibromatosis. And in 1905, Texas doctors treated a woman with an abdominal cyst weighing 328 pounds.

# Iran's leader mocks 'newcomer' Trump

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran's supreme leader said Tuesday that "newcomer" President Donald Trump had shown the "real face" of the United States after the American leader accused Iran of being ungrateful for sanctions relief approved by the Obama administration and vowed a tougher stance.

Last week, after Iran tested a ballistic missile, Trump tweeted that the country was "playing with fire," saying they "don't appreciate how 'kind' President (Barack) Obama was to them. Not me!"

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who makes the final decisions on all major policies in Iran, appeared to respond to the tweet in remarks carried by State TV. "Why should we be thankful to the previous U.S. admin-

istration?" he said. "Because it imposed anti-Iranian sanctions? Because of the extremist Islamic State group? Setting the region on fire in Iraq and Syria?"

He went on to mock Trump, saying: "We are thankful to Mr. Newcomer, of course, since he has shown the real face of the U.S. and proved what Iran has said for 38 years about the political, economic, social and moral corruption of the U.S. government."

He added that the Iranian people "are not afraid of any threat."

Trump has repeatedly criticized the 2015 nuclear agreement between Iran, the U.S. and five other world powers, in which Tehran agreed to curb its uranium enrichment in exchange for the lifting of international sanctions, but he has not said what he plans to do about it.

His administration said Iran was "on notice" over the missile test, and imposed new sanctions on more than two dozen Iranian companies and individuals.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, a moderate who has worked to improve relations with the West, said earlier Tuesday that the nuclear agreement could serve as a blueprint for resolving other Middle East disputes.

As an example, he pointed to Russian-led negotiations in Kazakhstan aimed at firming up a shaky Syrian cease-fire and paving the way for the revival of peace talks to end that country's nearly six-year civil war. Iran and Russia are close allies of Syrian President Bashar Assad, while the U.S. and other Western countries support the rebels fighting to topple him.

## Palestinians ask world to punish Israel for new law

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — A Palestinian Cabinet minister on Tuesday called on the international community to punish Israel for a contentious new law, just hours after the Israeli Parliament adopted the bill to retroactively legalize thousands of West Bank settlement homes built unlawfully on private Palestinian land.

The explosive law, approved by lawmakers late Monday, is the latest in a series of pro-settler steps taken by Israel's hard-line government since the election of Donald Trump as U.S. president. It is expected to trigger international outrage and a flurry of lawsuits against the measure.

"Nobody can legalize the theft of the Palestinian lands," said Palestinian Tourism and Antiquities Minister Rula Maayaa. "Building settlements is a crime; building settlements is against all international laws. I think it is time now for the international community to act concretely to stop the Israelis from these crimes."

Trump is seen as more sympathetic to Israel's settlement policies than his fiercely critical predecessor, Barack Obama, and the Israeli government has

approved plans to build thousands of new homes on occupied territory since Trump took office. Using a biblical name for the West Bank, Israeli Cabinet minister Yariv Levin said the law was "a first step in a series of measures that we must take in order to make our presence in Judea and Samaria present for years, for decades, for ages."

"I do believe that our right over our fatherland is something that cannot be denied," he said.

According to the law, Palestinian landowners would be compensated either with money or alternative land, even if they did not agree to give up their property. Critics say the legislation enshrines into law the theft of Palestinian land, and it is expected to be challenged in Israel's Supreme Court.

The White House's immediate response was to refer to its statement last week that said the construction of new settlements "may not be helpful" in achieving an Israeli-Palestinian peace. The State Department later said "the Trump administration will withhold comment on the legislation until the relevant court ruling."

## 7 percent of Australian Catholic priests accused of child sexual abuse

Associated Press

SYDNEY — Seven percent of priests in Australia's Catholic Church were accused of sexually abusing children over the past several decades, a lawyer said Monday, as officials investigating institutional abuse across Australia revealed for the first time the extent of the crisis.

The statistics were released during the opening address of a hearing of Australia's Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The royal commission — which is Australia's highest form of inquiry — has been investigating since 2013 how the Catholic Church and other institutions responded to the sexual abuse of children over decades.

The commission has previously heard harrowing testimony from scores of people who suffered abuse at the hands of clergy. But the full scale of the problem was never clear until Monday, when the commission released the statistics it has gathered.

Commissioners surveyed Catholic Church authorities

and found that between 1980 and 2015, 4,444 people reported they had been abused at more than 1,000 Catholic institutions across Australia, said Gail Furness, the lead lawyer assisting the commission. The average age of the victims was 10½ for girls and 11½ for boys.

Overall, 7 percent of priests in Australia between 1950 and 2010 were accused of sexually abusing children, Furness said.

Francis Sullivan, CEO of the Truth Justice and Healing Council, which is coordinating the Australian Catholic Church's response to the inquiry, said the data reflected "a massive failure" by the church to protect children.

"These numbers are shocking, they are tragic and they are indefensible," a tearful Sullivan told the commission. "As Catholics, we hang our heads in shame."

Several senior Australian Catholics will testify over the next few weeks. The commission's final report is due by the end of this year.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Students relocated after bed bugs, rodents found

**DC** WASHINGTON — Students at a south-east Washington elementary school where bed bugs and rodents were discovered will be temporarily relocated to another school.

D.C. public schools spokeswoman Michelle Lerner said that Savoy Elementary School would hold class on the campus of Ferebee Hope Elementary School starting Wednesday. The district will provide transportation. School officials told parents in a letter Friday that workers would thoroughly clean Savoy and replace all soft materials, including rugs, cots, blankets and pillows, on Monday and Tuesday. The school would then be inspected by the health department.

## Plunge raises \$900K for Special Olympics

**DE** REHOBOTH BEACH — Organizers of the Special Olympics Lewes Polar Bear Plunge raised \$900,000, the largest amount in the event's 26-year history.

Media outlets reported about 3,600 people participated Sunday, plunging into 41-degree water at Rehoboth Beach.

Special Olympics Delaware spokesman Jon Buzby said the funds raised this year put the organization over the \$10 million mark for money raised for the Special Olympics.

## Pizza Hut manager goes to game, boss covers

**AL** HUNTSVILLE — One of the busiest nights for pizza restaurants, the president of Pizza Hut spent the Super Bowl working at stores in Alabama while a manager got a chance to attend the big game.

News outlets reported that Pizza Hut President Artie Starrs held a competition to improve customer service with managers whose stores showed the most improvement being entered into a drawing to attend the game in Houston.

Vickie Weaver, who manages several Pizza Huts in the Huntsville area, won the drawing. As part of the deal, Starrs agreed to work on her behalf at multiple Pizza Huts in northern Alabama during the game.

## Police: Woman forged big check to buy home

**PA** DILLSBURG — Police said a Pennsylvania woman tried to buy a house by forging a \$1.2 million check from a credit union.

Police in Carroll Township, York County, said that happened last month.

Investigators said Katherine Kempson, 49, used the internet to copy a business logo from Members First Federal Credit Union to create the \$1.2 million check. She's also accused of writing a bad check for \$60,000 to a real estate agency as part of the bogus transaction.

She faces a preliminary hearing March 20 on forgery and bad-check charges.

## Deputy inhales liquid nitrogen during rescue

**GA** AUGUSTA — Authorities said a sheriff's deputy in east Georgia died after inhaling liquid nitrogen while trying to save a worker at a company in Augusta.

The Richmond County Sheriff's Office said in a statement that Sgt. Greg Meagher, 57, died Sunday after inhaling a chemical substance. Augusta Fire Department spokeswoman Dee Griffin told The Augusta Chronicle the substance was liquid nitrogen.

Sheriff's Lt. Allan Rollins said three other deputies were injured, but they're expected to recover.

Richmond County Coroner Mark Bowen said Meagher had gone inside the company, Xytex, to rescue a female employee. Firefighters found both of them unresponsive. The employee was taken to a hospital. Her condition wasn't known.

## City hopes to close deal on 'Tepee Man' land

**NH** PORTSMOUTH — Officials in Portsmouth are hoping to close on a deal this week to buy land owned by a man known in the city for living in a tepee.

City Attorney Robert Sullivan told The Portsmouth Herald he's "optimistic" that Wayne Elliott, 65, who lived in a tepee next to his home for more than two years to honor his late wife, will have his check for the land before the week ends.

The "Tepee Man" signed a purchase-and-sale agreement with the city in October to transfer ownership of his property in exchange for \$550,000.

## Car splits in half after distracted driver wrecks

**NJ** SOUTH BRUNSWICK — Police said a distracted driver crashed into a utility pole, splitting his car in half.

The crash occurred Sunday afternoon near Davidson Mill Road and Gregory Court in South Brunswick.

Police said it appeared the 23-year-old driver was trying to prevent an object from blowing out his car window when he lost control of the vehicle, left the road and hit the pole. Downed wires started a brush fire, which firefighters extinguished.

Police said the man did not

sustain serious injuries.

## Sheriff: \$300K of meth found in juice bottles

**MS** PELAHATCHIE — Authorities said they captured a man who slipped away after a deputy discovered liquid methamphetamine stored inside plastic juice bottles.

Rankin County Sheriff Bryan Bailey told news outlets that a deputy pulled over a pickup truck Saturday night and found about \$300,000 worth of liquid methamphetamine concealed in juice containers.

While a deputy was arresting the passenger of the truck, Rebecca Lynn Whiting, 18, the driver, Felix Josue Colon-Rodriguez, 27, escaped on foot. Pelahatchie police caught and arrested Colon-Rodriguez on Sunday.

Liquid methamphetamine is a fairly new form of the drug that is made when meth is dissolved in water, which makes it easier to disguise during transport.

## 30 ill after suspected food poisoning at school

**FL** LAKE CITY — Authorities said more than two dozen kids attending a science competition in north Florida fell ill and were taken to the hospital after eating a catered lunch.

The Columbia County Sheriff's Office said on its Facebook page that 28 children and 2 adults were taken to hospitals Saturday due to suspected food poisoning.

Authorities said people fell ill at Florida Gateway College in Lake City where a middle school Science Olympiad was being held.

The Florida Department of Health is investigating.

From wire reports

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STARS AND STRIPES®

# LeBron's 3 forces OT, Cavs edge Wizards

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — There's always something with LeBron James, and Monday night was no different, from the gimme layup he somehow missed after admittedly traveling ... to the turnaround, step-back, fade-away three-pointer he banked in with 0.3 seconds left to force overtime ... to the indignant postgame comments about a report that he'd be OK with trading Kevin Love to acquire Carmelo Anthony.

There was more involving James, who produced a career-high 17 assists and 32 points before fouling out 47 seconds into the extra period. That's when Kyrie Irving took over, scoring 11 of his 23 points in OT, including a tiebreaking three with 35 seconds left, to help the Cleveland Cavaliers edge the Washington Wizards 140-135 in a game that felt more akin to the playoffs in late May than the regular season in early February.

Love provided 39 points, 12 rebounds and the length-of-the-court pass that led to

James' "He did what?!" three at the end of regulation.

"LeBron made a heck of a shot," Wizards guard John Wall said, "that you probably make one in a million times."

It put the reigning NBA champion Cavs in position to end surging Washington's winning streaks of 17 in a row at home and seven in a row overall.

When Love shot free throws in the third quarter, a small section of spectators sang, "Bron wants Melo," a reference to a New York Daily News report citing an unidentified source that said James is pushing the Cavs to get Anthony from the Knicks — even if it means sending Love to New York.

Asked about the story, the four-time NBA MVP replied: "It's trash. And the guy who wrote it is trash, too, for writing that."

For his part, Love posted a quote from Winston Churchill on his Instagram account: "A lie gets halfway around the world before the truth has a chance to put its pants on."

Bradley Beal had 41 points

and eight assists for the Wizards, but he missed a potential tying three with about 5 seconds left in OT.

It was a back-and-forth contest, with little runs by each team, plenty of offense, lapses on defense, a lot of complaints about the officiating by folks on both sides and a couple of technical fouls.

All in a hyped-up atmosphere that several players likened to the postseason.

"You have it circled on your schedule for a long time," Beal said about facing the Cavs. "That was definitely a test and a battle for us. We did a tremendous job of handling it."

With 12.2 seconds left, and Washington up 118-117, James drove past Wall, aided by an extra step that he said "kind of threw me off of my rhythm," and somehow flubbed a wide-open layup.

After Wall's foul shots made it 120-117 with 3.4 ticks left, Love got the ball to James on a play the Cavaliers call "Touch-down." James' three went off the glass and through the net as he landed out of bounds — set-

ting the stage for Irving to pull out the victory in OT.

## Injuries

Cavaliers G Iman Shumpert left the game with an ankle injury. ... Wall said he was bleeding a bit and felt dizzy after taking a head butt to the mouth in the game.

## R-e-s-p-e-c-t

The Wizards entered with the NBA's best record over the past month (14-2) and looked at this game as a chance to show that they could hang with the Cavs. Afterward, Wall and Beal both said they heard praise from James, Irving and Co. "They all said it," Beal said.

## Tip-ins

**Cavaliers:** James became the first player in NBA history to rank in the top 20 in points (eighth), assists (13th) and steals (20th).

**Wizards:** C Ian Mahinmi is "getting closer" to a return after missing all but one game this season with injuries to both knees, coach Scott Brooks said.

# 49ers make it official, hire Falcons' Shanahan as coach

Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — The San Francisco 49ers officially hired Atlanta offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan as their new head coach on Monday, more than a month after firing Chip Kelly after just one season.

The 49ers settled on Shanahan a couple weeks ago but had to wait until after the Falcons played in the Super Bowl to sign him to a contract. Shanahan will be formally introduced at a news conference later this week.

Shanahan is the son of two-time Super Bowl winning head coach Mike Shanahan, who also won a title as offensive coordinator in San Francisco in 1994. The younger Shanahan served as a ball boy then but now will be tasked along with new gen-

eral manager John Lynch with rebuilding a team that just matched the worst record in franchise history with a 2-14 mark, leading to the dismissal of Kelly and general manager Trent Baalke.

"As a young man, I had the unique benefit of being exposed to the storied history of the San Francisco 49ers firsthand," Shanahan said in a statement. "From that exposure, I developed great respect for those who created a world-class, championship standard. As this team begins the task of re-establishing that standard, I could not ask for a better partner than John Lynch. He is a man who certainly has personal knowledge of what championship organizations look like. John and I look forward to establishing a strong culture that will serve as

our foundation for constructing this team."

Shanahan won the AP award as the top assistant coach in the NFL this season when he helped the Falcons post a league-high 33.8 points per game in the regular season and return to the Super Bowl for the second time in franchise history.

That ended in disappointment after Atlanta blew a 28-3 lead to New England and lost 34-28 in overtime. Shanahan came under criticism for his play-calling in the fourth quarter.

He called a deep drop back on a third-and-1 that led to a sack and fumble that sparked the Patriots comeback and then with Atlanta in field-goal range to make it a two-possession game late, Shanahan again passed up on the opportunity to run, leading to a sack and a holding penalty.

Those were rare blots on an otherwise stellar season as a play-caller that led Lynch to call him the "catch" of the head coaching cycle. San Francisco was the last of six teams to hire a coach this offseason.

Shanahan, 37, becomes the third youngest coach in franchise history. Jack Christiansen was 34 when he was hired in 1963 and Frankie Albert was 36 when he coached his first game in 1956.

It was clear that Shanahan was the choice for the 49ers when he was the only candidate to get a second interview and the team hired Lynch as general manager after a recommendation from Shanahan.

"Throughout this process, we learned many things about Kyle that convinced us he is the perfect coach to lead this team," CEO Jed York said.

# Bruins fire Julien, promote Cassidy

Associated Press

BOSTON — The Boston Bruins fired Stanley Cup-winning coach Claude Julien on Tuesday as the team was in danger of missing the playoffs for a third straight season.

He was the longest-tenured coach in the NHL.

General manager Don Sweeney announced the change on Tuesday, naming assistant Bruce Cassidy the interim coach.

Julien was 419-246-94 in 10 seasons that included two trips to the Stanley Cup Final and a Stanley Cup title in 2011. The Bruins lost in the finals two years later, and the year after

that earned 117 points and the Presidents' Trophy before losing in the conference semifinals to archrival Montreal.

But in 2014-15, Boston was eliminated from the playoff race on the final day of the regular season — the first time in Julien's tenure they sat out the playoffs. Again last year, the Bruins had a chance to reach the playoffs heading into the final week, but they lost nine of their last 12 games to finish ninth in the Eastern Conference.

The Bruins hadn't kept a coach who missed the playoffs two straight years since 1965, when Milt Schmidt was given a third year before he was re-

placed by Harry Sinden.

Julien was spared in 2015 when team president Cam Neely decided to fire general manager Peter Chiarelli instead, replacing him with Sweeney. Sweeney gave Julien another chance, saying "He's the coach of the Boston Bruins as of today, for sure."

Julien said at the time that he had little room for error.

"It just means that I'm probably the next one to fall off the totem pole, right?" the former Canadiens and Devils coach said last summer. "I'm going to try to make it last as long as I can."

Again last summer, the Bruins spared him, with Sweeney

saying Julien was the right coach to guide the team through a "bumpy transition."

"We've got work to do; I've got work to do," Sweeney said after the team missed the playoffs last year. "There's no question that we have areas we want to address and collectively we've already started to assess that."

Last season, Julien became the all-time Bruins leader for wins by a coach. He is the fourth NHL coach to be fired this season.

Julien's firing leaves Chicago's Joel Quenneville as the longest-tenured coach in the league. He was hired in 2008.

## Hutton stops 26 shots to help Blues shut out Flyers

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — The St. Louis Blues kicked off a big five-game trip with a solid performance in Philadelphia.

Carter Hutton led the way.

Hutton had 26 saves, Kenny Agostino scored his first goal in almost three years and the Blues beat the Flyers 2-0 on Monday night.

"We battled, played tight defensive hockey, and found a way," Hutton said.

Paul Stastny also scored for St. Louis, which won for the second time in three games after coach Mike Yeo replaced Ken Hitchcock on Feb. 1, following a 1-5-0 stretch. Hutton, who allowed 13 goals in his three previous appearances, posted his first shutout since Jan. 24 and No. 3 on the season.

"He looked like a confident goalie tonight," Yeo said. "He was great right from the start. He looked calm in the net but was still challenging and getting aggressive."

Michal Neuvirth made 14 stops for Philadelphia, which was coming off a 1-0 overtime loss to Los Angeles on Saturday. It has dropped three of four overall.

It marks the first time the

Flyers have been shut out in consecutive home games without a road game in between since 1999. Philadelphia also lost rookie forward Travis Konecny in the second period with an undisclosed injury.

The Flyers' three leading goal-scorers, Wayne Simmonds, Brayden Schenn and Jakub Voracek, have not scored in their past four games.

"Obviously, in this league you have to play good defense, but you also have to score goals and we're not generating enough Grade A opportunities," said Schenn, who has one goal in his last nine games.

Voracek, who has one goal in his last 14 games, recorded four shots in the loss.

"It's tough for us and it's tough for the fans," Voracek said. "They pay a lot of money to see some goals and unfortunately, we just couldn't get one."

The Blues won despite being held to a season-low 16 shots. It was just the third time this season they have been held to fewer than 20 shots.

The 24-year-old Agostino was recalled from the minors when the team announced Sunday that forward Robby Fabbri

will miss the rest of the season with a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee. Agostino was leading the AHL with 60 points (18 goals, 42 assists).

He scored on a breakaway 2:10 into the third period, beating Neuvirth under the crossbar to give the Blues a 2-0 lead. It was his first NHL goal since April 4, 2014, as a rookie with the Calgary Flames.

"[David] Perron just sprung me with a great pass and I had a lot of time," said Agostino, who signed a one-year contract with the Blues last summer. "It looked like (Neuvirth) was leaning a little bit to the left so I went top right and it worked out."

**Islanders 6, Maple Leafs 5 (OT):** Brock Nelson's second goal of the game at 2:42 of overtime lifted host New York over Toronto.

Trailing 5-4 late in the third period, the Islanders pulled goalie Thomas Greiss and tied it on Andrew Ladd's deflection with 1:29 left.

Josh Bailey had a goal and two assists, Ryan Strome contributed a goal and an assist, and Nikolay Kulemin also scored for the Islanders. New York stopped a two-game skid

and improved to 6-0-2 in its last eight at home.

Auston Matthews, Mitchell Marner, Nikita Soshnikov, Zach Hyman and William Nylander scored for Toronto, which finished 2-4-0 on a season-high six-game trip. Frederik Andersen made 28 saves.

**Devils 2, Sabres 1:** Pavel Zacha scored on a power play with 7:27 remaining, and host New Jersey snapped a seven-game home losing streak by beating Buffalo.

Adam Henrique also scored a power-play goal, Mike Cammalleri had two assists and Cory Schneider made 22 saves as the Devils won at the Prudential Center for the first time since Jan. 2. New Jersey is 3-0-1 since the All-Star break.

Tyler Ennis scored for the Sabres, and Robin Lehner made 37 saves.

Zacha's game-winner was reviewed after Buffalo coach Dan Bylsma argued Henrique interfered with Lehner. Cammalleri took a shot from the right point and Lehner could not glove the high shot because Henrique appeared to hit the base of his glove with his stick. The referees looked at it on replay and let it stand.

# No. 3 Kansas wins battle with K-State

Associated Press

MANHATTAN, Kan. — Josh Jackson's left eye was still blood red after it got poked during practice earlier in the day, and a bruise was forming on Frank Mason III's right elbow after a spill over courtside tables as he tried to save a loose ball.

Yes, third-ranked Kansas is a supremely talented team. Turns out the Jayhawks have a lot of fight, too.

Jackson dealt with the bright lights that caused him vision problems to score 18 points, Mason's trip over the table highlighted his 21-point performance, and the Jayhawks rebounded from a rare home loss to hold off pesky Kansas State 74-71 on Monday night.

"I think those plays define seasons," Kansas coach Bill Self said afterward. "It's always an extra-possession hustle play

that means the most to your team."

All those hustle plays allowed the Jayhawks (21-3, 9-2 Big 12) to beat the Wildcats (16-8, 5-6) for the fifth straight time, though it was just as nip-and-tuck as their meeting in Lawrence.

The game was tied 63-all with 2:50 left when Kansas ripped off six quick points, but the Wildcats kept hanging around. D.J. Johnson hit three of four foul shots down the stretch, and Kamau Stokes hit a three-pointer from the wing to get within 72-69 with 19.2 seconds to go.

Devonte Graham calmly hit two more free throws to put the game away.

**No. 12 Virginia 71, No. 4 Louisville 55:** London Perrantes scored 18 points and the host Cavaliers used a 22-5 run to begin the second half and beat the short-handed Cardinals.

Isaiah Wilkins added 13 points, 11 rebounds and five blocks for Virginia 18-5, 8-3 Atlantic Coast Conference). The victory gave Virginia four consecutive victories against Louisville, including a sweep of the season series, and moved them into a tie with No. 14 Florida State for second place in the conference.

Freshman V.J. King scored a career-high 24 points for the Cardinals (19-5, 7-4), whose three-game winning streak was snapped. Donovan Mitchell added 16.

The Cardinals were without their second- and third-leading scorers, with guard Quentin Snider (12.1 ppg) out with a hip flexor and forward Deng Adel (11.1 ppg) and center Mangok Mathiang (7.1 ppg, 6.2 rpg) suspended for missing curfew Saturday. Reserve guard Tony

Hicks also missed the game with a broken bone in his hand, leaving coach Rick Pitino with just seven scholarship players.

**Vermont 71, Binghamton 51:** Ernie Duncan hit six of eight three-pointers and scored 18 points, and the host Catamounts won their 13th straight.

Vermont (21-5, 11-0 America East) is one of six schools in the country undefeated in conference play — along with No. 14 Cincinnati, Princeton, Belmont, New Mexico State and top-ranked Gonzaga.

**Monmouth 74, Rider 69:** Justin Robinson scored 25 points and the visiting Hawks rallied in the final two minutes to earn a school record 10th consecutive victory.

Monmouth (20-5, 12-2 MAAC) closed on an 8-0 run, holding the Broncs scoreless for the final 1:44.

# Dragic hits seven 3's to lead Heat to 11th straight win

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Goran Dragic let three-pointer after three-pointer fly, and his career night from behind the arc was just what the Miami Heat needed to keep a most improbable winning streak going.

That so many of Dragic's looks were so wide open caused Timberwolves coach Tom Thibodeau to question everything he has been doing during his first season in Minnesota.

Dragic scored 33 points and hit a career-high seven threes to lead the Heat to their 11th straight victory, 115-113 over the Timberwolves on Monday night.

Hassan Whiteside had 19 points and 13 rebounds, and the Heat shot 53.6 percent (15-for-28) from three-point range. Miami made 10 more threes than Minnesota and scored 25 second-chance points.

"The rim looks huge, you know?" said Dragic, who hit his first seven threes. "It's just, first four three-pointers was really easy. There was no con-

test, and a credit to my teammates, they were finding me on the open shots."

Karl-Anthony Towns had 35 points and eight rebounds for the Timberwolves, who have lost four straight games. Andrew Wiggins added 27 points, but missed two shots with chances to win the game in the final 8.5 seconds.

"I have to make sure they understand it better and I have to do better," Thibodeau said of his team's defense. "I've got to make them understand how important this is. I have to ask myself, 'Is it being taught properly?'"

"Then you have to have the responsibility of understanding what your job is and then going out there and doing it. And us being able to count on you to do your job. And you can't do what you feel might be best for you at the expense of what's best for our team. The team has to come first, and everyone has to understand that."

The Heat led by as many as 14 points — the ninth straight game they have led by double

digits — and now own the second-longest winning streak in the NBA this season. Golden State won 12 in a row in November.

**Bulls 112, Kings 107:** Dwyan Wade scored 31 points, including the final seven for visiting Chicago in a victory over Sacramento.

**Grizzlies 89, Spurs 74:** Marc Gasol and Zach Randolph scored 15 points each, Mike Conley added 12 points and nine assists and host Memphis held San Antonio to a season low in points.

**Pacers 93, Thunder 90:** Paul George had 21 points and eight rebounds, Jeff Teague scored 17 points and host Indiana rallied from an 11-point halftime deficit to beat Oklahoma City.

**Raptors 118, Clippers 109:** DeMar DeRozan had 31 points and host Toronto overcame a triple-double from Blake Griffin to beat Los Angeles.

**Jazz 120, Hawks 95:** Gordon Hayward scored 30 points and visiting Utah broke open a close game with 10 straight

points in the third quarter to beat Atlanta.

**Lakers 121, Knicks 107:** Lou Williams scored 22 points, Nick Young had 17 and Los Angeles handed New York an embarrassing defeat to stop a 12-game losing streak on the road.

**Pelicans 111, Suns 106:** Anthony Davis capped his 34-point night with a key rebound and six made free throws in the final half-minute, Jrue Holiday scored five of his 30 points in the last minute and a half and host New Orleans ended a four-game slide with a victory over Phoenix.

**Nuggets 110, Mavericks 87:** Will Barton scored 31 points, connecting on five three-pointers, and host Denver overcame the absence of three starters to beat Dallas.

**Pistons 113, 76ers 96:** Andre Drummond had 16 points and 17 rebounds, and host Detroit pulled away at the start of the third quarter for an easy victory over Philadelphia.