

STARS AND STRIPES®

Wednesday, February 8, 2017

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Workshops push sailors to be more innovative

BY TYLER HLAVAC
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — As the U.S. 7th Fleet prepares for threats as diverse as North Korean ballistic missiles and Southeast Asian piracy, it is also focusing on an internal, less tangible threat: complacency.

To drive that point home, sailors attending workshops in Japan watch a video showing enemies disguised as cargo ships sneaking through defenses and sinking American warships.

A Navy loaded with high-tech weaponry could be out-manuevered by scrappy adversaries with clever ideas, officials told sailors during the workshops, held at Yokosuka and Sasebo naval bases and Naval Air Facility Atsugi by U.S. Fleet Forces Command's Illuminate Thinkshop.

The Navy is calling for cultural change to spur innovation — a tall order for any institution, let alone one as regimented as the military.

"Our adversaries are innovating rapidly and the fear is our system is not keeping up," said Lt. John Knudson, the 7th Fleet's newly appointed innovation officer. "It's not about new ships and not about the weapon systems. If we can innovate faster than our adversary, then that is how we maintain our advantage."

The 7th Fleet culture shift is a challenge for deployed sailors in a region full of strong potential adversaries, Knudson said. However, some U.S. adversaries have been quick to embrace innovation.

The Islamic State group early on placed a premium on innovation, embracing low-cost ideas such as social media to outgrow and outpace rival organizations such as al-Qaida, Wired magazine reported in an April story.

The call for Navy innovation is coming from the service's top officer, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson.

Sailors should come up with innovative ideas ranging from "repurposing current weapons for additional uses in the short term, to designing innovative new surface combatants and submarines that may not resemble the ships in today's fleet," according to an August interview with USNI News. The Navy is also looking for smaller-scale solutions. One sailor helped invent a needle gun that enabled faster paint removal.

The Illuminate group trained "unit innovation facilitators" while in Japan to solve problems, come up with ideas and encourage sailors to think imaginatively.

The facilitators will put sailors in touch with people who can mentor them, then help shape and present ideas to leaders, Knudson said.

"Innovation is hard," Knudson said. "You're going to hear 'no' a thousand times when you have a new idea."

The Navy struggles with bureaucracy and is quick to rely on outside organizations for innovation, said Capt. Chris Brunett, one of the Illuminate group's leaders.

"We probably have the solutions to any problem we encounter within the military, within our own people," he said. "It's a matter of tapping that potential. Change is hard; people don't like change. But to get better we have to change."

Some commanders support innovation but others see it as a distraction from their duties, said Knudson, who added that some sailors sent to train as innovation facilitators hold low ranks and might not have much influence within their command.

Commander: 6 months to retake Mosul and Raqqa

Associated Press

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — Forces fighting the Islamic State group should be able to retake the militant-held cities of Mosul in Iraq and Raqqa in Syria within the next six months, according to the top U.S. commander in Iraq.

On a tour north of Baghdad on Wednesday, U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Stephen Townsend said, "Within the next six months I think we'll see both (the Mosul and Raqqa campaigns) conclude."

Townsend also said he expected the fight for Mosul's western half to begin in days.

Iraqi forces have retaken about half of Mosul — the second-largest city — since the operation was officially launched in October following more than two years of coalition-led anti-Islamic State operations clearing supply lines and partially isolating the city. Last month Iraqi forces declared Mosul's east "fully liberated" and have since largely paused the fight.

Townsend, who heads the U.S.-led coalition against the Islamic State group, said Iraq's military is still in the process of putting forces into place ahead of the push into western Mosul, but predicted operations would begin "in the next few days."

Closely backed by U.S.-led coalition airpower, Iraqi forces faced months of grueling urban combat in Mosul that at times brought the front lines to a standstill for weeks. The pace increased as Iraqi forces closed

in on the Tigris River, which roughly divides the city.

Townsend credited the quicker progress with better coordination and "lessons learned" on the part of Iraqi forces. But on the ground inside Mosul, Iraqi troops said as they neared the Tigris, Islamic State group fighters launched fewer car bombs and largely fled their advances — unlike the heavy resistance they faced in the first few weeks inside the city.

Townsend said he expects that the fight for western Mosul will pose a particular challenge for Iraqi forces due to the older neighborhoods and narrower streets.

In Raqqa, significant ground military operations against the Islamic State group have barely begun. The coalition has been targeting the Islamic State in the area for more than two years, and U.S.-backed Kurdish-led fighters have been on the offensive in nearby areas retaking just a cluster of villages over the past few months.

On Saturday, the fighters known as the Syria Democratic Forces announced the launch of the "third phase" of the Raqqa operation, which aims at isolating the city from the rest of the Islamic State-held territories before attacking the city itself.

Iraqi and coalition officials have warned that the extremist group is expected to pose a security threat in Iraq and beyond even after it is defeated territorially.

Navy family, teen mom try to stay together

BY ERIK SLAVIN

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Kayla Germany took a pregnancy test before heading to her high school softball team practice, just to make sure.

She wasn't clear about the results, so she went to her mother, Farrah Wilson.

Wilson knew exactly what the positive indicator meant. She had raised her daughter as a young mother, working full time and sacrificing her wants and needs for Kayla's sake.

Wilson cried at first. But as they discussed how to tell Kayla's father, Kenya, a chief petty officer at sea aboard the USS Fitzgerald, Wilson's disappointment began transforming into resolve.

"We have to be with her to help her," she said. "She has goals in life, and my husband and I will do everything in our power to ensure she becomes the woman she wants to be."

But first, they had to navigate Defense Department regulations and a complex international treaty that could split the family for a year, until Kenya Wilson's tour ends.

The Status of Forces Agreement that grants servicemembers visas to stay in Japan covers spouses and children, but it does not include grandchildren.

"Because the newborn child cannot be SOFA sponsored, s/he is subject to the Japanese tourist restriction of 90 days in the country," a Navy attorney wrote to the Wilsons after a visit in October. "There is an exception to this rule that can be applied directly through the Japanese government ... at this point, it is not entirely clear that it would be a successful application."

Dimitri Germany was born Dec. 18 at U.S. Naval Hospital Yokosuka. He's healthy and looks a lot like Kayla in her baby pictures.

Dimitri has Kayla's last name. The boy's father, a high school student, moved back to the United States before the

baby's birth. There were disagreements about his role during the pregnancy, though he has returned for now to meet Dimitri and help Kayla.

Naval Forces Japan is aware of the Wilsons' situation. But whether the family can stay together remains unclear.

Hard choices

Yokosuka attorneys laid out several options for the Wilsons, each with a downside.

Farrah and some or all of her three children could return to the United States, leaving her husband to finish his tour alone.

She and her husband could apply for temporary guardianship of Dimitri, which would allow the newborn to be their "secondary dependent." That would require paying a civilian attorney in Florida, their home of record. It could take months, and even then there is no guarantee that Naval Forces Japan would grant the baby command sponsorship.

Another option is a grandparent adoption, which would grant command sponsorship. It would legally turn Kayla into her baby's sister and sever her standing as Dimitri's mother.

Kayla wouldn't give up her parental rights. She considered moving back to the U.S. without her parents and siblings, living with a family member and finishing her senior year at a new school.

"I was at the point where I just didn't want to be a burden to my family," Kayla said.

Faced with leaving her husband in Japan, Farrah posted her family's story in a Facebook group for Yokosuka spouses and base personnel.

"I'm so torn," Farrah wrote. "Please if anybody can help me, please message me. ... Please pray for our family."

Wilson's post drew dozens of responses, ranging from poignant prayer to dubious advice. It also caught command-level attention.

Navy Region Japan's command master chief, Joe Fahr-

ney, is also a former military dependent.

"When we're talking about splitting up families ... I am not in favor of it in almost any circumstance," Fahrney said. "It almost never works out well."

Dependent dilemma

Fahrney has dealt with several unusual family issues that simply don't exist for servicemembers stateside, due to the complications of overseas command sponsorship.

Earlier in his tour, he heard from several active-duty mothers who weren't allowed to pick up their children from school, had difficulties getting care at the hospital and couldn't obtain other services without legal documentation.

The command agreed to sign waivers for the women, because their active-duty spouses were listed as the command sponsor and regulations don't allow dual sponsorship.

The Wilson case is more straightforward, though the stakes are higher.

While Navy officials have expressed concern for the Wilsons, they are also mindful of allowing too many exceptions.

Command sponsorship can qualify dependents for free air travel, subsidized health care and other pricey benefits.

"We have had a number of folks with dependent status under a single sponsor who would not otherwise, under reasonable expectations, been considered dependent," Fahrney said. There are more than 300,000 sailors in the Navy, "a good chunk with dependents," he said. "If that were to get out of control from a DOD perspective, we could find ourselves bankrupt."

A family's future

People on base are trying to make things easier for Kayla, who recently turned 18.

Although Dimitri is ineligible for Tricare, the military's family health insurance program, the base hospital told Kayla that

it would provide urgent medical care for him if needed.

Kinnick High School at Yokosuka — where there is at least one other pregnant teen — has arranged for her to complete her coursework through open-block classes, homework and other means.

The school "has been really good about it, and my art teacher has been really supportive," Kayla said.

She said she knows that life will be harder with a child, but she hasn't given up on her dreams. She wants to enlist in the Air Force after she graduates and adjusts to motherhood. She's also interested in photography and graphic design, and wants to use the GI Bill to pay for her college degree.

For Kayla to enlist and complete boot camp, her grandparents would likely need temporary custody of Dimitri. Temporary custody rules vary between states, but the status is possible in Florida.

The Air Force once barred single parents from enlisting but now allows them with up to three dependents with an approved waiver. Approval is based on the applicant's adaptability, potential to perform and conduct, Air Force officials told Stars and Stripes.

Kenya Wilson is waiting for Dimitri's passport and Social Security card, and is arranging for private overseas health insurance. Once he has Dimitri's identity and citizenship documents, he can ask the Navy to place Dimitri on his "Page Two," a document within his personnel file that would list the newborn as a secondary dependent.

He's been told that the chances for approval are good.

"But you don't know until you actually get it," Wilson said.

F-35B jets are now training on Okinawa

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — A squadron of F-35B Lightning II jets is now training on Okinawa, its first announced action around the southern island since arriving in Japan last month for its first overseas deployment.

The new stealth fighters from Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing out of Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni began flying near Okinawa this week, a Marine Corps statement said.

Officials declined to provide further information on flight paths and scheduling, as is standard procedure.

The squadron will be operating out of Okinawa's Marine Corps Air Station Futenma and Kadena Air Base on a "transient basis," the statement said.

"The Marine Corps is dedicated to supporting the U.S.-Japan alliance with the most advanced aircraft platforms in our inventory," the statement said of the short-takeoff, vertical-landing aircraft meant to replace the F/A-18 Hornet, AV-8B Harrier and EA-6B Prowler.

The new fighter's advances have been touted by military pilots. However, the plane was plagued by issues with ejector seats and computer systems in its development, which led to delays and cost overruns.

President Donald Trump has indicated he may abandon the program altogether.

The fighters make their way to Japan amid ongoing tensions along its southern border. The new administration has recently traded barbs with Beijing about the United States' defense of Japan's southwestern islands, the Senkakus, which are also claimed by China.

Lawmaker asks Mattis for medal upgrade for Peralta

The San Diego Union-Tribune

The nearly decadelong quest to award slain Marine hero Rafael Peralta the nation's highest battlefield honor might finally end with legendary leatherneck Jim Mattis.

Mattis, who once led troops in Iraq and commanded the Camp Pendleton-based 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, was sworn in as President Donald Trump's defense secretary last month.

On Monday, Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., sent him a letter urging the Pentagon to upgrade Peralta's Navy Cross for combat valor to the Medal of Honor. It's the latest effort in a case that has included forensics experts, rejections by at least three previous defense secretaries and conflicting accounts from Marines who served with Peralta.

"Jim Mattis can now make the right decision on this after others have failed to do that," said Hunter, a former Marine artillery officer who fought in Iraq.

Peralta was a San Diegan who died in the second Battle of Fallujah in Iraq. President George W. Bush praised him in a nationally televised speech, and he has been lionized in books and a documentary.

The Navy has named a warship after him; the destroyer is scheduled to reach its homeport of San Diego for the first time this summer.

While assigned to A Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines, Peralta in Fallujah led a team clearing insurgents room by room. Storming into their seventh house on Nov. 15, 2004, Peralta immediately drew enemy automatic weapons fire. He fell, wounded, to the floor.

Fleeing insurgents tossed a grenade that skittered to a rest near his head. Without hesitation, Peralta snatched the explosive to his body and absorbed the brunt of the blast to spare the lives of his team, according to his citation for the Navy Cross, America's second-highest award for battlefield bravery.

Although the Marine Corps recommended Peralta for a posthumous Medal of Honor, Defense Secretary Bob Gates downgraded the commendation in 2008. He expressed concerns raised by a review panel that the Marine might have been too injured to consciously shield the grenade with his body.

Hunter believes Mattis, a former commander of the 1st Marine Division in Iraq, had

signed off on the initial Medal of Honor nomination for Peralta before it percolated up to the Pentagon.

The San Diego Union-Tribune on Monday couldn't confirm the role Mattis played in Peralta's award. Pentagon officials didn't return messages seeking comment.

Although Hunter twice tried to prod the Pentagon to reopen Peralta's medal case, defense secretaries Leon Panetta and Chuck Hagel declined to overturn Gates' decision.

On Friday, the Navy took possession of the guided-missile destroyer Rafael Peralta, which prompted Hunter to urge reopening the Medal of Honor case.

Born in Mexico City in 1979, Peralta received his green card after enlisting in the Marine Corps in 2000. He died an American citizen and is buried at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery in Point Loma.

Although most Medals of Honor are awarded less than five years after a service-member's battlefield heroics, President Barack Obama's administration sought to make amends for past oversights, awarding medals for service during the Civil War, World War I and Vietnam.

WWII-era mines removed from naval base

By TYLER HLAVAC

Stars and Stripes

The last of a dozen World War II-era sea mines found last year have been removed from a U.S. naval base in Japan.

A contractor doing repair work uncovered the vintage munitions at a Sasebo Naval Base ordnance area, James Johnson, a Naval Facilities Engineering Command Far East spokesman, said in an email.

The mines contained traces of TNT but were determined to

be stable enough for removal in a two-month-long operation that wrapped up last week, he said. Navy Munitions Command, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5 and the Japan Self-Defense Forces were involved in the task.

The mines were later turned over to the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force for disposal, Johnson said.

Leftover and unexploded ordnance is scattered throughout Asia and the Pacific, especially where battles occurred or

at current and former ammunition depots.

Last May, a 5-inch unexploded shell fired from an American warship during World War II was found at a construction site near Camp Kinser, Okinawa. A road was closed and hundreds of residents and workers evacuated while it was removed.

In 2006, 350 people were evacuated after workers building a gym unearthed an unexploded ordnance cache at Sasebo.

Judges challenge both sides in hearing on US travel ban

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A federal appeals court will decide whether to reinstate President Donald Trump's travel ban after a contentious hearing in which the judges hammered away at the administration's motivations for the ban, but also directed pointed questions to an attorney for two states trying to overturn it.

It was unclear which way the three judges of the San Francisco-based 9th Circuit Court of Appeals would rule, though legal experts said the states appeared to have the edge.

"I'm not sure if either side presented a compelling case, but I certainly thought the government's case came across as weaker," said Stephen Vladeck, a professor at the University of Texas School of Law.

A ruling could be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Trump tweeted early Wednesday: "If the U.S. does not win this case as it so obviously should, we can never have the security and safety to which we are entitled. Politics!"

The appeals court challenged the administration's claim that the ban was motivated by terrorism fears, but it also questioned the argument of an attorney challenging the executive order on grounds that it unconstitutionally targeted Muslims.

The contentious hearing before three judges on the San Francisco-based 9th Circuit Court of Appeals focused narrowly on whether a restraining order issued by a lower court should remain in effect while a challenge to the ban proceeds. But the judges jumped into the larger constitutional questions surrounding Trump's order, which temporarily suspended the nation's refugee program and immigration from seven mostly Muslim countries that have raised terrorism concerns.

The hearing Tuesday was conducted by phone — an unusual step — and broadcast live on cable networks, newspaper websites and various social media outlets. It attracted a huge audience, with more than 130,000 tuned in to the court's YouTube site alone to hear audio.

Judge Richard Clifton, a George W. Bush nominee, asked an attorney representing Washington state and Minnesota what evidence he had that the ban was motivated by religion. The two states are suing to invalidate the ban.

Noah Purcell, Washington state's solicitor general, cited public statements by Trump calling for a ban on the entry of Muslims to the U.S. He said the states did not have to show every Muslim is harmed, only that the ban was motivated by religious discrimination.

Clifton also went after the government's attorney, asking whether he denied statements by Trump and former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, who said recently that Trump asked him to create a plan for a Muslim ban. Judge Michelle T. Friedland, who was appointed by President Barack Obama, asked why the case should not move forward to determine what motivated the ban.

Friedland also asked whether the government has any evidence connecting the seven nations to terrorism.

Tornadoes injure 40 in Louisiana

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Brittany Ross remembers she was savoring the smell of her aunt's simmering white beans when the storm that injured about 40 people in southeastern Louisiana hit.

"The place started shaking, kind of twisting," she said Tuesday as she stood amid the wreckage at a small trailer park in eastern New Orleans. The tornado, she said, lifted the trailer off the ground and slammed it down.

Ross, 26, her aunt and two others crawled out of the wreckage amid flying debris — uninjured, but suddenly homeless.

The tornadoes that struck Ross' home and other parts of southeastern Louisiana destroyed homes and businesses, flipped cars and trucks, and left thousands without power, but no deaths were reported, Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards said.

The governor took an aerial tour and made a disaster declaration before meeting with officials in New Orleans. The worst damage was in the same 9th Ward that was so heavily flooded in 2005's Hurricane Katrina.

Edwards, a Democrat, said he was heartbroken to see some of the same people suffering again and promised that the state will provide the affected residents with the resources they need as quickly as possible.

He said seven parishes were hit by tornadoes in an afternoon of tumultuous weather across southeastern Louisiana.

The storm ripped apart homes, toppled a gas station canopy, snapped tall power poles and flipped a food truck upside-down. It left shards of metal hanging from trees, and trapped a truck driver as power lines wrapped around his cab.

The wall of severe weather also delivered heavy rain and hail to Mississippi and Alabama.

Two Mississippi counties reported wind damage but no injuries from suspected tornadoes.

Lyon, 1st SEAL to become admiral, dies

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Richard Lyon, the first Navy SEAL to rise to the rank of admiral, has died at 93.

Lyon served four decades in the Navy, including in World War II and the Korean War, and was among the first U.S. troops to enter Japan after the atomic bomb was dropped.

He went on to work as a Scout intelligence officer in northern China and later served in Korea.

Rear Adm. Tim Szymanski, commander of the Naval Special Warfare Command, called Lyon a legend who was honored with the title "Bullfrog"

for being the oldest-serving SEAL. Lyon regularly attended the graduation ceremonies of SEALs.

"Every SEAL reflects on his warrior spirit and his lasting, impactful handprint on our legacy," Szymanski said in a statement emailed to The Associated Press. "He will be greatly missed."

Lyon died Friday surrounded by family and friends at his beachfront home in Oceanside, Calif., said lifelong friend Kelly Sarber, who met Lyon as a child because her father was also a SEAL. Sarber recalled photos of Lyon and other SEALs swimming with knives

during the elite military team's beginnings.

"He reminded me of James Bond," she said. "I never saw him lose his cool. I never saw him be nothing but kind and treat people with manners. He was a real class act."

Lyon enlisted in the Navy in 1942 while studying at Yale. He was among the first to endure the SEAL training known as "Hell Week" in which trainees spend seven days with almost no sleep, running, swimming and doing drills.

An award-winning swimmer, he continued to body surf in competitions into his 70s, Sarber said.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Corrections officer fired after week on job

FL JACKSONVILLE — A Jacksonville corrections officer who had just started work last week was arrested and fired after authorities say he led them on a chase.

Citing an arrest report, news outlets said Joshua Vergara, 19, refused to stop Saturday afternoon for an officer who was trying to pull him over for speeding.

Undersheriff Pat Ivey said the pursuing officer broke off the chase because of traffic but was later flagged down by a driver who said he'd been involved in a hit-and-run crash with a car matching the description of Vergara's.

A short time later, nearby residents alerted authorities that Vergara was hiding in some bushes. Deputies arrested Vergara and charged him with fleeing police, reckless driving and leaving the scene of an accident. He was fired Monday.

Baby born during Super Bowl is named Brady

MA FALMOUTH — A Massachusetts couple whose son was born right before the Patriots' 25-point comeback in the Super Bowl has named the newborn Brady.

Sean Gaffney told the Cape Cod Times that he decided if the Plymouth couple's fourth child was born, the Patriots would erase their 28-3 deficit.

The 7.7-pound baby boy was born at 8:49 p.m. Sunday, and his mother, Colleen, said, "Literally, right after he was born, they came back." The Patriots rallied for a 34-28 overtime victory over the Atlanta Falcons.

Their son was named after Patriots quarterback and game MVP Tom Brady.

Brady has an older brother

and two older sisters, including Quinn, 6, named after dad's favorite Notre Dame quarterback, Brady Quinn.

Snowmobiles plunge through thin ice; 2 dead

NY TUPPER LAKE — Two western New York brothers in their 60s died when their snowmobiles went through thin ice on an Adirondack lake.

State police said the bodies of Stephen Sattler, 67, and Edward Sattler, 64, were found about 10:30 a.m. Monday in the Raquette Pond section of Tupper Lake.

Police and forest rangers started searching for them after a family member reported them missing Sunday evening.

The brothers lived in Blasdel, just outside Buffalo, and had been staying at a family camp in Pierceland for a snowmobiling weekend.

Father accidentally stabs son during fight

AZ TEMPE — A man accidentally stabbed his adult son in the back during a fight with several people outside a Tempe pizza restaurant, police said Monday.

Officer Lilita Duran, a Tempe police spokeswoman, said a man who was involved in the fight early Sunday morning moved out of the way when John Yanez, 39, tried to stab him. Duran said Yanez ended up stabbing his son, who was standing nearby and suffered injuries that weren't life-threatening.

In all, about nine people participated in the fight.

Authorities said Yanez and his associates were confirmed members of a criminal street gang and that security video from the restaurant showed that they started the fight.

Duran said Yanez and his son fled in a taxi after the stabbing.

Officers later arrested Yanez. They said they found heroin, methamphetamine and a knife with dried blood in his possession.

Meteor over lake lights up sky in several states

WI GREEN BAY — A meteor over Lake Michigan lit up the sky Monday morning across several states in the Midwest.

Dashcam video from police cruisers in Wisconsin and Illinois captured the fireball streaking through the dark sky about 1:30 a.m. In addition to those in Illinois and Wisconsin, the American Meteor Society lists sightings in Indiana, Michigan and other states as well.

Meteorologist Jeff Last, of the National Weather Service's office in Green Bay, said the meteor was accompanied by a sonic boom that shook houses in the region.

Lungfish more than 90 years old is euthanized

IL CHICAGO — Chicago's Shedd Aquarium has euthanized an Australian lungfish that had been on display there for more than 80 years.

Aquarium officials said the 4-foot-long, 25-pound fish named Granddad was euthanized Sunday due to "a rapid decline in quality of life associated with old age."

A spokesman for the Association of Zoos and Aquariums said Monday that the nonprofit group is unaware of any older fish kept by a zoo or aquarium that it accredits in the U.S. and eight other countries.

Shedd Aquarium acquired the lungfish in 1933 from the Sydney Aquarium in Australia.

Aquarium officials estimate

he was more than 90 years old. Lungfish can live up to 100 years and are a protected species in Australia.

Naked man steals taxi, drives through park

PA PHILADELPHIA — Police said a naked man stole a taxi and recklessly drove through a crowded park in a posh section of Philadelphia.

Police said the man attacked a woman who was getting out of a cab Monday afternoon. The driver of the taxi said he got out to help the woman, and that's when the man undressed and stole his cab.

Police said the suspect drove through Rittenhouse Square, hit three parked cars and crashed into a curb before being apprehended.

Window washer hit by slab of ice, snow dies

UT PARK CITY — A Park City window washer died after being struck by an approximately 700-pound slab of ice and snow that fell from a roof.

Authorities said Jon Henry, 50, was hit while working in the ski town's Old Town area Friday afternoon and it may have been an hour before another worker heard him moaning and discovered him. Fire Chief Paul Hewitt said the slab was so heavy that four firefighters couldn't lift it, and had to break it up to free him.

Henry was flown by helicopter to University Hospital in Salt Lake City where he died Saturday morning.

From wire reports

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Crosby approaching 1,000 career points

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Five years ago, Sidney Crosby spent a winter working out in solitude wondering when the pain in his neck would ease and the intermittent fog in his head would lift. The lingering effects of a concussion in the 2011 Winter Classic left the Pittsburgh Penguins captain's once bright future uncertain at best.

For the first time in his life, the preternatural vision that helped make Crosby a star couldn't see the next move.

Reaching a thousand points? Heck, Crosby would have settled for the chance to score just once more.

"A lot of things go through your head as far as playing again, getting to the level you think you can get to," the two-time MVP said. "A lot of sitting time around kind of waiting. It's hard for that to not kind of cross your mind."

No longer. Not with Crosby healthy and at the height of his powers for the defending Stanley Cup champions. Crosby's 30 goals lead the league and his

60 points are tied for the lead with Edmonton's Connor McDavid, who is now where Crosby was a decade ago: at the forefront of the next wave of superstars.

The 29-year-old Crosby remembers those giddy early days. Yet he doesn't hold them as close as the ones that left him wondering if he would ever get back on the ice with his teammates, let alone return to the form that made him the torchbearer for an entire organization as a teenager.

So whenever Crosby becomes the 86th member of the NHL's 1,000-point club — he had 998 after Tuesday's 3-2 shootout loss to Calgary — he'll make sure the puck ends up in his father Troy's hands for safekeeping. And with it comes an appreciation that Crosby admits he didn't always have for his own talent and the historic company he keeps.

"I don't feel old but I feel like there are times maybe when you're younger it's kind of an extension of junior hockey where you're used to getting certain milestones and it seems

to come easy," Crosby said. "I think you look at it differently as you get older. It's just something you try to enjoy a little bit more."

In a way, Crosby has come almost full circle. On Monday, Crosby and the rest of the Penguins practiced in the throwback yellow helmets the team will wear during a Stadium Series game at Heinz Field against Philadelphia later this month. The game will mark the team's first visit to the home of the NFL's Steelers since Jan. 1, 2011.

Crosby skated onto the ice that rainy night as the league's leading scorer and overwhelming frontrunner for a second Hart Trophy. He left it with his career at a crossroads following a blindside hit by Washington's David Steckel. Crosby didn't play again that season and just 22 games the next.

In Minnesota at the time, veteran forward Matt Cullen watched Crosby from afar and feared the worst.

"It's a really tough thing to go through," said Cullen, who dealt with his own concussion

issues before joining the Penguins in 2015. "You worry: Do you come out of it? Do you play with the same aggression? He plays with a kind of reckless abandon. You know how good he is for the game and how fun it is to watch him. It's just such a frustrating injury."

Crosby is three points away from becoming the eighth active player to reach 1,000, and if he does it sometime in his next nine games, he'll get there faster — much faster in most cases — than any of them.

While teammates wonder aloud where Crosby's point total would be at now if Steckel's right shoulder hadn't connected with their leader's head six years ago, he doesn't. He's busy looking forward, not back. Considering how hot he's been over the last 15 months, it doesn't matter anyway. He's not limping to 1,000. He's sprinting through it.

"The way he's been playing, winning the Cup, the World Cup and everything that's come along with it, he's just on top right now," Cullen said. "He's as good as there is."

Jones' overtime goal lifts Blue Jackets over Red Wings

Associated Press

DETROIT — The young Columbus Blue Jackets, running among the NHL leaders for the first time, are learning lessons every day in the art of winning.

They passed another test Tuesday night, this one about not taking lesser teams lightly.

Seth Jones took a drop pass from Brandon Dubinsky and blasted a high slap shot behind goalie Petr Mrazek 3:22 into overtime and the Blue Jackets beat the Detroit Red Wings 3-2.

The win followed a 5-1 thumping handed to them by the New Jersey Devils on Saturday. The Blue Jackets ended an 0-1-1 skid and haven't lost three straight games yet this season.

"It is a battle of attrition at this point of the schedule, and these guys are starting to understand how tough it is going to be," Columbus coach John Tortorella said. "It is easy to play when you are out of it, but this is totally different."

Detroit snapped a two-game winning streak and fell to last overall in the Eastern Conference, but the team was more upset by a play just seconds prior to the winning goal.

Red Wings captain Henrik Zetterberg made a move with the puck toward the Blue Jackets net but had his stick snapped by a slash from Dubinsky. The Wings thought a penalty should have been called.

Wild 4, Jets 2: Jason Pominville and Nino Niederreiter each scored twice, and Minnesota closed out a 3-1 road trip

by beating Winnipeg.

Rangers 4, Ducks 1: Henrik Lundqvist made a season-high 43 saves, Michael Grabner scored twice and host New York won for the sixth time in eight games.

Avalanche 4, Canadiens 0: Mikko Rantanen scored three times for his first career hat trick, Calvin Pickard stopped 27 shots and host Colorado posted back-to-back wins for the first time since November.

Capitals 5, Hurricanes 0: Alex Ovechkin got his 26th goal of the season, helping host Washington earn its fourth straight victory.

Flames 3, Penguins 2 (SO): Kris Versteeg scored the only goal in the shootout and visiting Calgary recovered after a furious third-period rally by Pittsburgh.

Maple Leafs 3, Stars 1: Auston Matthews scored his team-leading 25th goal and host Toronto picked up a much-needed victory.

Lightning 5, Kings 0: Ben Bishop made 28 saves, Nikita Kucherov scored twice, and host Tampa Bay won consecutive games for the first time since Dec. 20-22.

Blues 6, Senators 0: Jake Allen made 30 saves and Vladimir Tarasenko scored twice, leading St. Louis to the road win.

Predators 4, Canucks 2: Viktor Arvidsson and Calle Jarnkrok each had a goal and an assist, powering host Nashville past Vancouver.

Sabres 5, Sharks 4 (OT): Evander Kane scored 1:05 into overtime, and host Buffalo rallied past San Jose.

Patriots celebrate with fans

Associated Press

BOSTON — Snow, rain and chilly temperatures didn't dampen the joy of New England Patriots fans exulting in their team's latest championship Tuesday.

The five-time Super Bowl winners received a hero's welcome as they paraded through downtown Boston aboard World War II-era duck boats that have become a staple of the city's recent title celebrations.

Sounds of "Brady! Brady!" "TB12!" and "MVP" rang out throughout the procession as fans proudly wore No. 12 jerseys over thick parkas and sweaters, holding signs declaring star quarterback Tom Brady the G.O.A.T. — the greatest of all time.

Brady grinned and just took it all in, at one point tossing footballs back and forth with fans on the route as the duck boats rumbled along.

"We're going to remember this one for the rest of our lives and we know you will too," he shouted from a stage at the parade's end at City Hall. "I told you we were going to bring this sucker home and we brought it home!"

Cannons shot out red, white and blue confetti along the route, which started near the Boston Marathon finish line,

where three spectators were killed and 260 others wounded in bombing attacks in April 2013. The route wound past famous city landmarks such as historic Faneuil Hall and the Boston Common.

Fans were still in disbelief over New England's stunning 34-28 comeback win in overtime against the Atlanta Falcons.

"We were all sweating bullets the whole time, and then we saw the best comeback in the world and the greatest thing we've ever seen," said James Mastrangelo, a Quincy, Mass., resident decked out Mardi Gras-style, with a red, white and blue mask and Patriots sneakers, sweater, gloves and hat.

Along the route, Patriots players held up some of the team's five Lombardi trophies.

Fan favorite Rob Gronkowski, who went down with an injury before the team's playoff run, energized the crowd with his typical Gronk antics. The tight end took off his shirt and chugged beers tossed up to the duck boats by fans, while other players held a wrestling championship-style belt over his head.

Some players waved black "Roger That" T-shirts showing fists with five championship rings as fans reciprocated

with their own handmade signs deriding NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell.

There's little love for Goodell in Patriots Nation after he handed Brady a four-game suspension at the start of the season for his role in the "Deflategate" scandal, a dispute that wound through federal court twice as the NFL found Brady responsible for using underinflated footballs during a playoff game in 2015.

Once again on Tuesday, the 39-year-old Brady was unquestionably the center of attention.

The crowd showered the MVP of Super Bowl 51 with chants of "MVP" and "We Want Six" as the snow, which fell in thick wet clumps most of the morning, broke just long enough for Brady and others to speak onstage.

Coach Bill Belichick said this year's team was the hardest working group he's ever coached.

"They came to work every day and there were no days off," he said.

The typically gruff, no-nonsense coach led the crowd of thousands, who likely skipped school or work to fete their team, in an impromptu chant: "No days off!"

Brady jersey still missing

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Tom Brady and his missing jersey have still not been reunited.

The investigation, which is being led by the Houston police department's Major Offenders division, has so far not turned up any leads on who swiped the jersey, Houston Police Executive Assistant Chief George Buenik said Tuesday.

The Texas Rangers, the state's top law enforcement officers, are assisting in the investigation along with the NFL's security department.

Brady's jersey was taken from the New England Patriots' locker room at Houston's NRG Stadium after the team's 34-28 victory over Atlanta in the Super Bowl on Sunday.

Buenik said officials are aware the jersey is considered valuable.

"So we are deeming this a pretty important case," Buenik said the same day the Patriots were celebrating their win with a Boston parade. "We want our top investigators on this case and, hopefully, we'll make an arrest and, more importantly, recover that jersey for Tom Brady."

Buenik said investigators are working to identify who was in the locker room at the time the jersey was taken. Police are also trying to determine who had access to the locker room but that could be a long list as players, all the coaches, team support staff and members of the media all had access, he said.

While a Houston police officer was stationed outside the locker room, access to the location was controlled by New England Patriots team security, Buenik said.

"We're attempting to gather a list of people who were in that locker room at that point so we can interview them," he said.

Investigators are also working to obtain video that might have caught the crime on tape.

Crime Stoppers of Houston will also be offering a reward for information leading to the stolen jersey and to the arrest of the person who took it.

Falcons shake up defensive staff

Associated Press

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. — After squandering a 25-point lead in the Super Bowl, the Atlanta Falcons are shaking up their defensive staff.

The team said Wednesday that coach Dan Quinn has dismissed coordinator Richard Smith and defensive line coach Bryan Cox, though there's a chance Smith could stay with the Falcons in an advisory role.

The changes mean the NFC champions will have two new coordinators next season. Kyle Shanahan left to become head coach of the San Francisco 49ers and was replaced as offensive coordinator by Steve Sarkisian.

Also, the Falcons will need a new quarterbacks coach. Matt LaFleur is expected to be named offensive coordinator of the Los Angeles Rams.

Smith will likely be replaced by a coach already on staff. The Falcons are considering

defensive backs coach Marquand Manuel, linebackers coach Jeff Ulbrich and defensive passing game coordinator Jerome Henderson.

The 61-year-old Smith served as defensive coordinator during Quinn's first two seasons in Atlanta, after previously working as a linebackers coach in Denver. He has more than a quarter-century of NFL coaching experience.

Under Smith, the Falcons showed significant improvement over the second half of the season and two playoff victories with a unit that often started as many four rookies and four second-year players.

But in the Super Bowl, Atlanta couldn't protect a 28-3 lead midway through the third quarter. Tom Brady and the New England Patriots scored 31 consecutive points for the greatest comeback in title game history, winning 34-28 in overtime.

Blazers win on McCollum's final shot

Associated Press

DALLAS — On a night when Dirk Nowitzki turned back the clock for the Dallas Mavericks, C.J. McCollum had the final answer.

McCollum scored 32 points, the last two on a runner from the top of the lane with 0.9 seconds left to give the Portland Trail Blazers a 114-113 win over the Mavericks on Tuesday night.

Nowitzki finished with 25 points that included two clutch three-pointers, the second a potential game-winner with 3.9 seconds left.

Portland and Dallas — fighting for the eighth and final playoff spot in the Western Conference — battled through a tense fourth quarter that saw the teams trade 13-0 runs at one point, then exchange leads six times in the final minute.

McCollum scored Portland's last seven points. On the final sequence, he took Mason Plumlee's inbound pass and split a double-team of Harrison Barnes and Wesley Matthews to break into the clear.

"Once I caught it, I knew I was going to attack right away,"

McCollum said. "I tried to split [the double team], and get to the free-throw line and get to my sweet spot."

McCollum released his runner at the free-throw line and it swished through. Dallas, which was without a timeout, managed only Devin Harris' long heave from three-quarter court that wasn't close.

Damian Lillard added 29 points for the Blazers, who tied their season series with the Mavericks at 2-2 — each team winning twice on the others' home floor.

Barnes led the Mavericks with 26 points and Matthews added 23.

Portland led 101-89 with 7:19 to go before the Mavericks answered the Blazers' 13-0 run with one of their own. Neither team led by more than two points in the final five minutes.

Nowitzki's 3 with 38.9 seconds left gave Dallas a 108-107 lead and prompted a fist pump from the veteran, who was coming off four games of below double figures for only the second time since his rookie season.

"The shot-making at the

end was just vintage," coach Rick Carlisle said. "It was breathtaking."

But McCollum was just getting started. He hit a short jumper, then answered a Devin Harris counter with a three-point play to make it 112-110 with 12.3 seconds to play before Nowitzki hit another long ball.

"You're just hoping that's 'Game,'" said Nowitzki of his last 3. "But three seconds in this league is a long time. I've obviously seen a lot of stuff happen. McCollum made a heck of a play."

Hornets 111, Nets 107: Kemba Walker, Nicolas Batum and Marco Belinelli each had 17 points as host Charlotte ended a seven-game losing streak.

Charlotte (24-28) had not won since a Jan. 21 triumph over Brooklyn. In this game, the Hornets' balanced offense included double-digit scoring from seven players and an early lead that ballooned to as many as 17 points in the second quarter.

Brooklyn lost its 10th straight game with the Nets last victory coming on Jan. 20 at New Orleans. Bojan Bogdanovic scored

22 points and Brook Lopez added 20 for the Nets (9-43).

Jeremy Lamb added 16 points for the Hornets, while center Frank Kaminsky recorded 12 points, 11 rebounds and five assists.

Rockets 128, Magic 104: James Harden had 25 points and 13 assists as the host Rockets built a big lead early and held off a late rally to get a win over the Magic.

The Rockets had led by as many as 23 before the Magic began chipping away at the lead. Serge Ibaka made a turnaround jump shot midway through the fourth quarter to cut Houston's lead to nine points. Harden grabbed a bad pass from Evan Fournier not long after that and dished to Eric Gordon, who finished with a three-pointer. Trevor Ariza added a 3-pointer for Houston to extend the lead to 112-97 with about four minutes remaining to put the game away.

Patrick Beverley made seven points after that to help extend the lead to 120-99 with less than two minutes left and send Houston's starters to the bench.

Alabama knocks off No. 19 South Carolina in 4OT

Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Alabama coach Avery Johnson couldn't help but gush a bit about his team's drama-filled, four-overtime victory over No. 19 South Carolina.

"We'll probably be watching this game 10 years from now," an exhausted Johnson said with a grin across his face.

Riley Norris scored six of his 11 points in the final overtime, including the go-ahead free throws with 56 seconds left, as Alabama finally put away the Gamecocks, 90-86, on Tuesday night.

The Crimson Tide (14-9, 7-4 Southeastern Conference) overcame a career night by Gamecocks star Sindarius Thornwell, who had career bests of 44 points and 21 rebounds. He

also made a South Carolina record 25 free throws, a number that surpassed the late, great "Pistol" Pete Maravich's mark of 21 made free throws in an SEC game.

No. 2 Villanova 75, Georgetown 64: Josh Hart scored 25 points and the host Wildcats held off a late Hoyas run.

With Hart on a second-half scoreless skid, Georgetown (13-12, 4-8 Big East) sliced a 17-point deficit to two and had Villanova reeling at the Pavilion. L.J. Peak buried a three and Rodney Pryor hit a jumper to key a 17-4 run that pulled the Hoyas to 60-58 with 3:49 left.

But the Hoyas just couldn't stop Hart in the clutch. Hart, a national player of the year candidate, scored 17 points in the first half.

No. 15 Kentucky 92, LSU 85: Wenyen Gabriel scored a career-high 23 points and Malik Monk also had 23 for the host Wildcats.

Kentucky (19-5, 9-2 Southeastern Conference) won for just the second time in five games and had to withstand LSU's late rally that got it within 91-85 with 14 seconds remaining. Monk's free throw with 8 seconds left sealed the win.

No. 17 Florida 72, Georgia 60: Chris Chiozza scored 15 points and the visiting Gators recovered after blowing a 16-point lead.

Kasey Hill had 12 points for Florida (19-5, 9-2 Southeastern Conference), which has won five straight.

Penn St. 70, No. 21 Mary-

land 64: Lamar Stevens scored 16 of his 25 points in the second half for the host Nittany Lions.

Tony Carr added 14 points and Mike Watkins had 10 for Penn State (13-12, 5-7 Big Ten) which snapped a two-game skid and beat its fourth Top 25 opponent since last February.

No. 22 Butler 68, Marquette 65: Andrew Chrabasz scored 13 of his 21 points in the second half and Avery Woodson scored 17 points in his first start in more than three weeks for the Bulldogs.

Butler (19-5, 8-4 Big East) snapped a two-game losing streak after tweaking its starting lineup, with regulars Tyler Lewis and Kelan Martin coming off the bench. Kethan Savage joined Woodson in the starting lineup.